





## 'Trainee' engineers seek Parliament help to secure full-time employment

By Sami Atiyeh  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Seventy engineering "trainees" from the Ministry of Education staged a protest in front of the Parliament building Saturday demanding they be fully employed at the ministry.

In a leaflet they distributed to Cabinet and Parliament members, the protesters urged the prime minister, the minister of education and Members of Parliament that they be employed on a permanent, contract basis.

"Many of us have been trainees at the Ministry of Education for more than three years and we still have not been employed," said one of the protesters. "All we ask is to become permanent employees enjoying the benefits of social security and health insurance," he said.

According to another protester, who said he was a civil engineer, "some of us have been training for more than five years whereas the policy is to train for one year after the trainees become full-time employees," he said.

The engineer, like other protesters interviewed by the Jordan Times, did not want to be identified by name.

The sit-in protesters also opposed being transferred to private sector consulting firms as part of an agreement arranged by the Ministry of Education. The agreement, which was not approved by the engineers, stipulated that the engineers be referred to the private sector dismissing them

from the ministry and allowing the private company to decide whether it wants to retain or dismiss them.

"We are not secure in our jobs. If neither the ministry nor the consulting firms want to employ us as permanent staff, we will be out of work," said another protester who had been a trainee for the past four years.

According to Minister of Education Mohammad Hamdan, a closed meeting was held Saturday at Parliament between him, Minister of Planning Awad Al Masi, president of the Jordan Engineers Association and Deputy Laith Shaboul and members representing the engineers.

Hamdan told the Jordan Times that the meeting resulted in a proposal with amendments in the agreement which the engineers had rejected.

"The changes in the agreement guarantee the continuation of the engineers' jobs in the consulting firms during the four-year school building project. In the meantime, they will have priority in appointment in government jobs in any ministry in 1990 for the first available vacancies," Hamdan said.

All the protesters unanimously rejected this proposal when it was presented to them outside the Parliament building. They described it as "devious and playing with words."

"They are just trying to break our unity in this protest by tempting some of us to accept this proposal. But, it is clear, we are still sticking

together. They either fire us all or employ all of us," said a young woman engineer.

"It appears that they are trying to shut us up and eventually disregard our demands. This is a proposal on how to eventually kick us out," commented another.

After the protesters' rejection was announced, Hamdan stated that he had not yet met with the protesters from his ministry, but plans to do so in the near future to reach a fair agreement.

One of the engineers told the Jordan Times that according to a decision taken by the government in 1987, all trainee engineers at the various ministries and institutions were to be appointed as full-time employees by their respective ministries.

"All of our colleagues in the other ministries were employed except us," said one woman, adding that they had been promised appointments which were not yet fulfilled.

"If we were employed at the ministry, then worked at a consulting firm during a project, we would have a guarantee that we come back to our jobs at the ministry," explained an engineer.

According to a source from the Engineers Association who preferred to remain anonymous, the ministry cannot employ the 70 engineers due not only to lack of funds but also vacancies.

"If they want to be appointed, it will be at the expense of other employed engineers who would have to be

dismissed to allow for vacancies," the source said.

The protesters, who have degrees in civil engineering from Jordanian, American, British and East European universities, said they had presented their demands to four different ministers in office in the past with no response.

They added that their demands were given to their association — which is now negotiating with the ministry on their behalf — and to deputies to discuss their case in Parliament.

The engineers complained that their monthly salary of JD 120 for nine hours of work every day did not include any raises, benefits or compensation of any sort.

"One engineer injured his arm while on site, and he paid JD 2,000 for surgery from his own pocket because he was not employed, and thus did not have medical insurance," said an angry protester.

The protesters carried banners quoting His Majesty King Hussein's words: "A human being is our most precious asset." They also carried banners reading: "Enough training from the Ministry of Education." "We demand legal contracts according to the civil service law," and "no sending us to consulting firms without guarantees."

One engineer summed up the protest by saying that they call on Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Hamdan and Members of Parliament to treat their case in a fair and just manner.



"Trainee" engineers at the Ministry of Education stage a protest Saturday outside the Parliament building demanding full employment (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan).

## CBJ presents law on moneychangers to the government

By Serene Hakala  
Special to the Jordan Times

JD 1 million capital of which JD 500,000 will be deposited with the Central Bank.

AMMAN — A newly amended draft law on moneychangers in Jordan has been submitted to the prime ministry for approval, according to an announcement by Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi Saturday.

Nabulsi said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the amended law defines the conditions for moneychangers to recommence operations, and it would be applied as soon as it has been approved by the Lower House of Parliament and other concerned authorities. Nabulsi did not disclose those conditions, nor did he give any further details on the amended law. But according to earlier reports the conditions stipulate that the number of exchange houses be reduced to 10 large companies from the 68 which operated in Jordan prior to the February order that froze the assets of most moneychangers, and led to the closure which was prompted by "violations of regulations and tampering with the national economy," by moneychangers in the country. The reported CBJ plan also set terms which included mandatory

At the time these conditions were reported, moneychangers issued a memorandum criticising them. "These conditions would mean that many moneychangers would go out of business because of the huge capital required by the CBJ," the memo said. Moneychangers also argued that the required deposit with the CBJ would result in lack of liquidity, not to mention the costs of rent, deposit, equipment and decor of the new offices. When contacted by the Jordan Times to comment on the draft law Saturday, both CBJ governor Nabulsi and Deputy-Governor Michael Marto refused to give details on either the proposed law or the reported conditions.

The moneychangers demanded a "just and speedy" solution to address their situation after private moneychanging establishments were ordered closed Feb. 8, 1989, under martial law provisions. In the memorandum signed by a committee of seven representing all moneychangers in Jordan, last December, moneychangers were calling on Parliament to review the closure order.

## Ministry to compensate contractors for losses

AMMAN (J.T.) — Contractors previously committed to carrying out construction projects for municipalities around the Kingdom will receive compensation from the government for losses incurred as a result of the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar, according to an official statement by Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Abdul Karim Al Dughmi.

Dughmi said that a special committee had just completed a study on the problem. Contractors who completed their projects before Oct. 10, 1988 are not eligible for compensation or those who have not yet completed projects they had undertaken, according to the statement.

The statement said that compensation will be paid for aluminum, iron used with concrete, paint, marble, stone, ceramics, wood works as well as electrical and mechanical items.

Also eligible for compensation are contractors who undertook to build a public building. They are entitled to 10 per cent compensation of the cost of the unfinished sections of the building, provided the work had to be completed after Oct. 15, 1988.

If a building was to have central heating and air conditioning systems, the compensation margin increases to 18 per cent, the statement added.

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## Woman donates jewelry to help the economy

AMMAN (AP) — A prominent Jordanian woman Saturday donated \$15,000 worth of jewelry to the Central Bank of Jordan to help the country's troubled economy.

Alia Abu Tayeh, a senior adviser at the Ministry of Education said the donation "is the least any Jordanian citizen can do to aid her country."

"What is the use of me living happily while Jordan is broke?" she told the AP after discussing the gift with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Lower House of Parliament Speaker Suleiman Al Arar.

Abu Tayeh, whose grandfather fought alongside King Hussein's family in the Arab Revolt against Ottoman colonial rule, said the jewelry includes gold and diamond-studded bracelets, necklaces and rings.

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## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Thursday declared holiday

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran Saturday declared Thursday Feb. 22 as a holiday on the occasion of Al Israa Wal Miraj, the anniversary of the Prophet Mohammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascension to heaven.

### 1,250 get jobs through ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Labour Qaseem Obeidat said Saturday a total of 2,309 Jordanians had so far checked with the ministry looking for jobs and that 1,250 of them secured jobs in various fields. Answering questions by Lower House of Parliament members Saturday, Obeidat said that the Ministry of Labour was undertaking a training programme to prepare labourers in various fields to replace expatriates. The ministry is conducting a comprehensive survey to study the needs of the local market and to give priority to unemployed Jordanians, he said.

### Mufti addresses Dubai forum

DUBAI (Petra) — Jordan's representative at a forum for women in management which opened in Dubai Saturday presented a working paper featuring social welfare organisations' activities and problems they encounter. Mrs. In'am al Mufti, who is also the Noor Al Hussein Foundation's (NHIF) director general, referred in her paper to the challenge represented to women by economic changes and to training for women to handle small size projects. A total of 30 women from private and public sectors in Arab states are taking part in the forum whose overall objectives is to provide an opportunity for women to exchange ideas and experience and to discuss managerial skills related to women in management.

### Canning workers plan strike

AMMAN (J.T.) — A union representing workers in the canning industry in the Kingdom has decided to stage a strike on Saturday, March 3, to protest the Jordan Canning Company's refusal to reinstate seven of its fired workers. Union Chairman Mohammad Samih said that plans for the strike were discussed at a general meeting held last Thursday in Amman. The strike will continue until the workers' demands are met, he said.

## Indonesia presents first rifle to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Indonesia has sent Air Chief Marshal Rusmin Nurjadin to Jordan to present the Assault Rifle 5.56 mm type SS1-V1 from President Suharto as a souvenir to His Majesty King Hussein. Marshal Nurjadin is a former minister of communication, former chief of staff of the Indonesian Air Force and former ambassador to the United Kingdom and the United States, and is currently a member of the Indonesian People's Consultative Assembly.

He presented the rifle Feb. 17 at the Royal Palace in Amman. Marshal Nurjadin was accompanied by Suryono Suryokusumo, Indonesia's Ambassador to Jordan, and Irawan Suryono, assistant general of the Indonesian Air Force.

The rifle, according to a press release by the

Indonesian embassy here, is the first product of the Indonesian Arms Factory.

During his meeting with the King, Marshal Nurjadin extended President Suharto's best wishes to the Monarch and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of Jordan. The president praised the pivotal role played by King Hussein in his search for a just and durable solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

President Suharto further stated in his message to the King that he recognised his wise leadership in bringing about true democratic life. The president also earnestly hoped that the existing brotherly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation between the two countries continue.

## Cairo meeting to discuss inter-Arab trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will participate in a meeting of the Arab Social and Economic Council due to begin in Cairo Tuesday on the level of the ministers of economy, industry, and trade. The three-day meeting will deal

with means to develop scopes of Arab economic cooperation, increase the size of trade exchange among Arab countries, and the financial crises faced by some Arab labour organisations. A preliminary meeting will precede

## Preparations begin for national industrial fair

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry announced Saturday that preparations were underway for organising a second national industrial fair.

The first national industrial fair, which displayed samples of various Jordanian products, was held at Marj Al Hamam, near Amman last August during the country's celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne.

The second fair will be held in Irbid in the second half of May 1990 as part of the country's celebrations on independence day, according to Ali Dajani, advisor to the Amman Chamber of Industry.

The Irbid Fair, which will be organised in cooperation with the Irbid Chamber of Trade and Yarmouk University, aims to highlight Jordan's manufactured products and achievements in the Kingdom over the past four decades, Dajani said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Minister of Industry and Trade Ziyad Fariz said that Jordanian industries witnessed great development and have boosted exports by 13 per cent during 1989. Jordan's exports of chemical products last year increased by 30 per cent reaching \$149 million, up from \$114 million in 1988, he said. Phosphate and potash exports increased by 54 per cent during 1989, compared with the previous year, Fariz said.

The minister said that national exports in 1989 reached \$970 million, up from \$874 million in 1988.

## Pilgrims need physicals to decide eligibility

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian Muslims wishing to perform pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina this year will have to undergo medical examination to determine their ability to perform the rites in the holy places and whether they are free of diseases, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqir announced Saturday.

"Pilgrims will be taken care of by a Jordanian medical team accompanying them to Saudi Arabia and by the Saudi Red Crescent Society," the minister said at a press conference following his return from Saudi Arabia where he held talks with Saudi officials and inspected areas where pilgrims are housed during their stay in Saudi Arabia.

"The ministry is keen on providing the best services to the pilgrims and is now revising matters related to transportation and lodging in Medina and Mecca, Faqir said.

He said that pilgrims this year will pay 20 per cent less for lodging in accordance with an agreement with Saudi Arabia and contacts are underway to reduce the transportation fees as well.

New lodging will be found for Jordanian pilgrims in Medina and Mecca but those at Mina and Arafat will remain the same, the minister added.

The pilgrimage season this year takes place in the second half of June, and the Eid Al Adha (Feast of the Sacrifice), which comes at the end of the pilgrimage season, is expected in early July.

## Eye bank issues appeal for cornea donations

By Ella Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — The director of the eye bank in Jordan Saturday issued a public appeal for donations of corneas of deceased relatives and friends to be used as implants for citizens in need of corneas.

Within four to six hours after death the cornea of the deceased person can be safely removed without mutilation or distortion and offered to an eye patient, Dr. Fuad Al Sayegh told the Jordan Times Saturday.

"Donated corneas are badly needed by the eye bank. The corneas have to come from deceased persons not suffering from dangerous diseases, such as AIDS, cancer or tuberculosis among others," Sayegh

said.

Sayegh was commenting on a telephone call made by His Majesty King Hussein to a call-in-radio programme Saturday morning. The King gave directives that care be given to a boy from the Irbid Governorate in need of a cornea.

King Hussein said the parents of the boy should contact Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid, president of the Friends of the Eye Bank Society, or that the case be referred to the palace for his attention according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

At present, Sayegh said, the eye bank in Amman has a waiting list of 500 patients, in need of cornea. Other patients are registered with Al Basir Government Hospital and the Royal Medical Services.

secure cornea donations with very little success, Sayegh said. He said the eye bank has placed an urgent order from Denmark to import at least two corneas for emergency cases. Each cornea costs at least \$750 to be paid in the country of origin for preparations before implantation, Sayegh added. He said that the eye bank in Jordan used to import corneas from the United States, Switzerland, Denmark and Sri Lanka, but work is now hampered by lack of sufficient funds.

At present, Sayegh said, the eye bank in Amman has a waiting list of 500 patients, in need of cornea. Other patients are registered with Al Basir Government Hospital and the Royal Medical Services.

## Work-related accidents total 8,944

## Seminar opens on occupational safety

AMMAN (Petra) — Work-related accidents in factories and workshops last year totalled 8,944 resulting in 63 deaths, 181 total and 356 partial disabilities, according to Dr. Mahdi Al Farhan, director-general of the Social Security Corporation (SSC).

Farhan was speaking at the opening session of a two-day seminar on occupational safety management, organised by the Occupational Health Safety Institution in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Amman.

Farhan said the seminar is aimed at spreading information about occupational safety to reduce the number of accidents and injuries.

"Providing safety and protection to workers is the duty of the whole society since workers form

the backbone of the national industry and the national economy, Farhan said.

The opening session was also addressed by Abdul Rahim Abdul Jabbar, the institute's director. He said the 50 participants from the public and the private sector would discuss topics related to methods of accident prevention and related topics. He said the institute is being backed in its endeavours by the Vocational Training Corporation, the SSC as well as the Industrial Development Bank (IDB). Farhan Saturday also opened a two-week seminar on administrative supervision organised by the SSC and attended by heads of its 25 offices. Subjects related to procedures in social security applications are among the topics for discussion.

## Computer design seminar concludes

AMMAN (J.T.) — A seminar on computer aided design concluded at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS). The seminar featured lectures dealing with computer aided design and software development in Jordan and India. The discussions also dealt with the implementation and execution of systems pertaining to analysis and design of civil engineering projects, computer aided structural design and drafting, as well as those related to computerised architectural, structural and mechanical design.

The last lecture discussed artificial intelligence including software techniques for logical analysis.

Participating in the two-day seminar were representatives from the ministries of public works and housing, awqaf and Islamic affairs, planning, as well as the Armed Forces, Natural Resources Authority, Telecommunications department, Jordan Petroleum Refinery Company, Arab Potash Company, and the Housing Corporation.

The seminar was organised by RSS in cooperation with the University of Jordan Faculty of Engineering and Technology and the Indian Scientific and Industrial Research Centre.



Suleiman Arabiyat

## JAMPCO expects to process 75,000 tonnes of tomatoes

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Arabiyat Saturday made inspection visits to the Amman Central Market and the Arda agricultural processing centre in the Jordan Valley.

The Arda centre is operated by the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company (JAMPCO). JAMPCO Director-General Ayed Al Werr told Petra that the company expects to receive 75,000 tonnes of tomatoes for processing this year.

Werr said that the centre's plant had a capacity of producing 35 tonnes of tomato paste per hour.

The minister visited centres in south Shmeh and Wadi Al Yabis for grading and packaging agricultural produce which is being shipped to Austria and France and was briefed on the operations.

The minister said grading and packaging centre were set up in view of their proximity to the source of production.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An exhibition of photos of plays directed by Cheram, Messaoud, Moushine, Panchon and others, at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ A photographic exhibition entitled "Panorama 1989" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of paintings by Alia Ammoura, Nabila Elhal and Nawal Abdallah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).
- ★ An exhibition entitled "The Blue Rider" at Ma'ta University.

### LECTURE

- ★ A lecture on accident prevention and occupational safety by Dr. Peter Campos at the Occupational Safety Health Institute — 9:30 a.m.

### FILMS

- ★ A Soviet film entitled "Torpedo Vessel" at the Soviet Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- ★ A German film entitled "Woyzeck" (English subtitled) at Yarmouk University — 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

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## The strength from within

THE first anniversary of the Arab Cooperation Council has generated new optimism that the ongoing efforts to forge meaningful unity between the four Arab states that make up the council are proceeding at full speed. Admittedly the ACC is very young in age and as such it still is in the embryonic stage of development; yet much has already been done to consolidate the initial gains realised in its first year. Its genesis, it will be recalled, was triggered by the many dangers and challenges that confront the Arab Order, whether these come from within or the outside. In any case, this is the right time to respond not only to external events and threats but also to the yearnings and aspirations for greater cohesion and integration on the basis of institutionalised democracy in the four Arab states that comprise the council. It is not enough to work on the external front by forging a common foreign policy. There is a pressing need to formulate common domestic policies in all the four Arab states on matters that touch the political as well as the economic and social lives of the Iraqis, Egyptians, Yemenis and Jordanians. After all the ultimate strength of the grouping stems in the final analysis from within these countries. This inner strength needs to be fortified and bolstered every step of the way as the governments concerned continue their efforts to strengthen the bonds of unity and coordination between our four states. This is not to belittle the many external threats to the council's members, be they the Israeli or Iranian threats or whatever. On the contrary such dangers are real and formidable. Rather it is to suggest that similar great challenges to the council come from within as well, where those of us who are affected must have yet to see all their dreams come true whether in the context of unity among ourselves or in greater participation in the steps being taken or contemplated to further strengthen Arab cooperation.

The recent events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe do not speak of only greater cohesion between the European countries but also of greater sense of freedom and democracy. This is the essence of the Eastern European story which we need to respond to in a like manner. The Arab Nation can no longer afford to gloss over the process of democratisation that is sweeping across the entire world. Only through the introduction and application of genuine democratic reforms can the council members ever expect to meet the challenges and dangers whether external or internal. In other words we would like to see the ACC serve not only as a nucleus for Arab unity but also as a nucleus for Arab democracy as well. How the four Arab states will affect a greater participation of their respective peoples in the decision-making process is something that has to be left for each one of them to determine for themselves. What counts most is to have the Arab peoples of the four states assume a higher profile in the decisions that will determine their future and the future of their generations.

There is hope that the projected ACC summit will address this and other equally important issues in a determined and straightforward way to the satisfaction of the entire Arab Nation.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Saturday considered His Majesty King Hussein's decision to grant amnesty to all political detainees, describing the decision as enhancing the concept of democracy and winning for Jordan further credibility before the nations of the world. The paper said that the King chose to announce the decision as the four members of the Arab Cooperation Council are observing the first anniversary of their bloc established a year ago in Baghdad. The royal gesture was of course welcomed warmly by the Jordanian family which is now living through a moment of joy over the anniversary and which is struggling behind its leader on the road to full democracy. Jordan is now stronger than ever through democracy with its leadership and people and is continuing the march to bolster its national unity and achieve further progress, the paper noted. The amnesty and the release of the political detainees set humanitarian example and provided an application of living democracy, said the paper. The political prisoners, it said, now have the right to air their views with full protection of the constitution; and the freed citizens will no doubt shoulder their responsibility and commit themselves to serving their nation.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily takes up the question of Israel's pressure and blackmail against Germany, and the West German leaders' favourable response to the leaders of Zionism. Tareq Masarweh notes in his article a statement made by Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher about his country's determination to foil any European Community decision to impose sanctions on Israel for its human rights violations in the occupied Arab territories. The Arab foreign ministers should not remain impassive in the face of this statement, neither should the Arab countries remain inactive in the light of Israel's pressure on Bonn forcing it to succumb and respond to Zionist demands, the writer warns. He says that Arabs ought now to demand that Bonn supply them with submarines in view of Germany's current plans to supply submarines to Israel and the Arab countries ought to realise that what Bonn is giving them is a contemptible lip service, and very little aid while pouring its economic aid into Israel, the writer says. He notes that the service Bonn is giving to Israel at present is detrimental to the Arab Nation. We call for a very firm stand and a reasonable form of blackmail to be exercised on West and East Germany to expose Bonn's real stand before its European allies and to safeguard Arab interests, Masarweh added.

## Sunday's Economic Pulse

# Right and wrong in combating inflation

POPULAR complaints about excessive price rises and higher cost of living are not new in Jordan. People now pay tribute to the reasonable price levels which prevailed until mid 1988, however. If one goes back to the newspapers, one always finds complaints of excessive prices and higher cost of living. Even 15 years ago, when things were in retrospect very cheap, the complaints from high prices of commodities mounted to such an extent that the government of the time found itself compelled to establish a special ministry, the Ministry of Supplies, and the Civilian Consumer Corporation, as if such a step would prevent further rises in price.

What people call excessive prices, higher prices, or higher cost of living, or what economists call inflation, is actually nothing but the depreciation of money, and the loss of its value. If the value of the Jordan dinar declined to half its value relative to a certain past moment, it is only natural that the price of a given commodity or basket of commodities will double. It is commodities that maintain their exchange value. Thus the origin of higher prices lies in money, not in commodities and services, which tend to maintain their value, while the excessive growth of money supply will inevitably cause the value of the monetary unit to plunge.

What veils this simple fact from the eyes of the people is the fact that money is used as a quantitative measure of value. The money illusion implies that a dinar one year ago and a dinar now have the same value. The fact is that, on average, a dinar in 1989 is worth only 795 fils of 1988. What used to cost one dinar in 1988 should therefore command a price of JD 1.258 1989.

Money illusion is so strong that we see reasonable people who think that if they deposited JD 100 in a bank in 1988, and the bank gave it back as JD 109 in 1989, they have received a surplus usury and committed the sin of recovering more than their original capital. In reality, what they recovered was less than their capital, they only got back what is worth JD 86.6 of 1988 money. The net real loss in that case is 13.4 per cent. The interest received on that deposit was only part of the depositors' right to recover their original capital without the bank or the depositor doing injustice to the other.

The importance of this analysis is that the grievances against higher prices should not be directed against the Ministry of Supplies, which should not have existed in the first place except for the purpose of keeping stock of strategic commodities. The

grievances should be directed to the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance who are both sharing the responsibility of making money cheaper. What we call excessive value of goods is actually the excessive reduction in the value of money resulting from imprudent monetary and fiscal policies, along with other less important factors.

If we are serious about combating inflation, we should realise that the least effective measures are: price fixing in the case of a continuously depreciating currency, financial subsidies, more intervention in the market and the imposition of harsh punishments against those who do not adhere to the compulsory prices. The real and effective policy to combat inflation is to increase domestic production, improve productivity, follow strict monetary policy, especially when it comes to the issuance of more money and the extension of bank credit, and last but not least adopt a conservative fiscal policy whereby the deficit in the budget is either reduced or abolished altogether.

The difficulty of the real approach to the problem and the long time it takes, tempt governments to choose the easy way by taking conspicuous measures and seen by the people to be acting tough.

By Dr. Fahed Faneh

# Aren't these legitimate fears?

By P.V. Vivekanand

THE very fact that many Israeli leaders and commentators describe the expected wave of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jewish immigrants as an issue of "survival for the state of Israel" should be a definite pointer to what lies in store for the Palestinian cause and the so-called Middle East peace process. But what makes it worse is that the Arab and international protests against the Soviet Jewish influx to Israel are very conveniently interpreted by Israeli commentators to dust off and reinforce the argument that the Arab World poses an "eternal" threat to the existence of the Jewish state and is questioning its "sovereign right to absorb immigrants."

In "moderate" Israeli views, the Arabs are at least criticised for rejecting Israel's "right" to take in Jews. Among the Arabs criticised are those who are only linking any recognition of that right to Israel's respect for the rights of the Palestinian people. The Arabs are even criticised for pointing out that any dramatic increase in the population of the Jewish state at this point in time will only obliterate whatever chances remain of advancing prospects for a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict by creating a new fait accompli, both on the ground as well as in the Israeli body politic.

Despite official Israeli arguments to the contrary, there is little doubt that Israel's plans call for a good part of the expected 75,000 or so Soviet Jews to be pointed and set off in the direction of the occupied territories — the West Bank mostly, and to a lesser extent the Gaza Strip — regardless of what the international community has to say about it. Whether Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said it aloud or not, the Arab World always knew that any mass immigration of Jews to Israel from any part of the world would mean one thing — the new arrivals will be settled in the occupied territories at the expense of the Palestinian people.

Surely, Israel does not expect the Arab World and the Palestinians to do a song and dance number in jubilation over the expected wave of Soviet Jews who will contribute not only to dramatically altering the present

demographic character of the "Jewish state with about 15 per cent Arab population" but also to enhancing its military machine and further fortifying its grip on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The acceptance of any drawing line between the grave dangers that settlement of such a large number of Soviet Jews poses to the Palestinians, Jordan and the rest of the Arab World and the Jewish state's rights as "sovereign state" can only be described as naive. Simply put, there is little substance in the contention that the Arabs and sympathisers with the Palestinian cause are yet unable to accept that it is Israel's business to take in as many immigrants as it can when the possibility is very real that the new arrivals will build their "homes" in occupied territory, edging out the rightful owners of the land.

One does not need a magnifying glass to see that a majority of the Palestinian people, and by extension the Arab World, have accepted the reality of Israel existing within its pre-1967 borders; well, at least that's what it would

boil down to if Israel was to launch peace negotiations today with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

The Palestinian people have paid the price for Jewish immigration to British-mandated Palestine by giving up the bulk of their land, (whether wittingly or otherwise is a secondary issue), and they should not be forced to pay again, this time the highest price ever — their identity as a people; that is the net Arab and Palestinian message to the international community.

This message should be seen in light of the Palestinian response to the threat of further displacement by new immigrants to Israel. If anything, the call by the PLO to set up transit camps in Europe for Soviet Jewish emigrants instead of flying them direct from the Soviet Union to Israel speaks volumes for the political maturity, moderation and realistic approach of the Palestinian people. It was as easy for the PLO leadership to have deman-

ded "in the name of the cause of liberation" that Moscow apply a total brake on Soviet Jewish emigration. Instead, the PLO chose to review the situation in light of realities and feasibility, and suggested that Jews be given the chance to choose their destination rather than Israel being forced down their throat. If that is not Palestinian political maturity, moderation and realism for the Israelis, then nothing would ever be.

Statements issued by Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories, including Faisal Al Husseini and Sari Nusseibeh among others, display the same political trend. Almost all of them have said that they are not against the idea of Jewish immigration to Israel, but that it should not be at the Palestinians' expense or undermine whatever little prospects there are for the peace process to advance.

Can Israel deny that the expected increase in its Jewish population will have far-reaching impact on efforts for peace in the region in more ways than one?

Can it be denied that the Israeli right sees the Soviet influx as the right weapon to counter the "Arab demographic threat" — the main motivation behind the Israeli Labour Party's acceptance of territorial compromise as the key to solving the Palestinian problem.

In the same vein, an influx of new citizens — most of them not exactly aware of the realities in the Middle East (thanks to decades of Moscow's clampdown on outside news reaching the inner parts of the Soviet Union) — will also contribute to a change to the worse in Israeli public opinion, forcing Labour and other so-called moderates to rethink their political platforms to the extent that few of them will entertain the idea of running a state based on land in exchange for peace with the Arabs when a good part of the electorate is happy with the status quo.

Of course there had been statements and calls from some forces on the Arab side for radical action to counter the influx of Soviet Jews to Israel, including

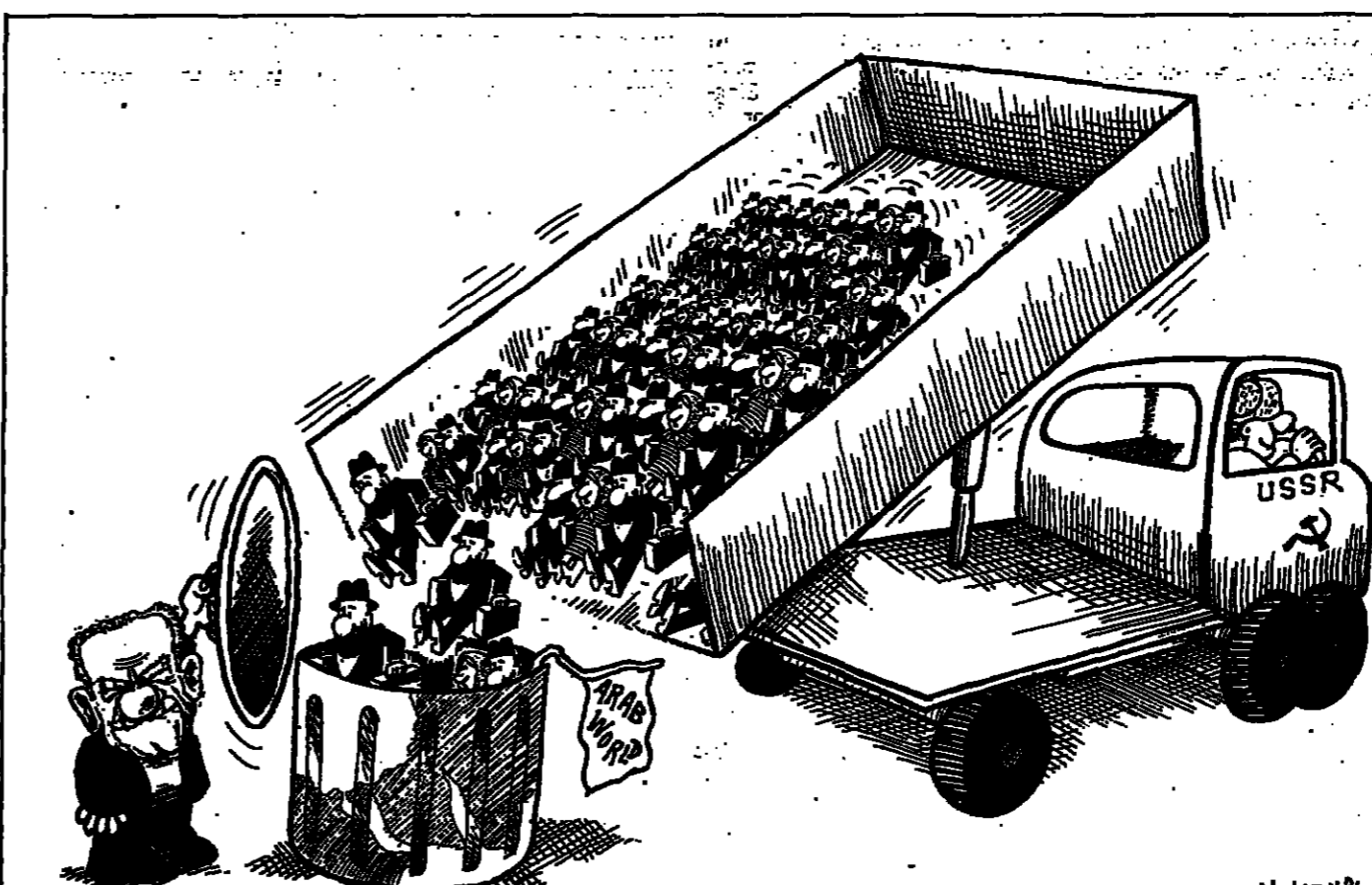
demands that the Soviet Union order a total ban on Soviet Jews from leaving the country. But these could only fade to the background when compared with the dedicated aim of Israeli groups such as Meir Kahane's Kach movement and others to throw out all Arabs from Israel as well as the occupied territories.

All said and done, the fact remains that thousands of Soviet Jews are arriving in Israel every month, and there is no sign that Moscow can or will adopt any unilateral action to curb the exodus, which the Kremlin describes as part and parcel of its perestroika reform and liberalisation programme applicable to all Soviet citizens regardless of ethnic origins. Now, Moscow has gone ahead and sought to involve the U.N. Security Council in the deal. It remains to be seen whether a possible Security Council resolution calling on Israel not to settle immigrants in the occupied territories will survive an American veto. Even if it did, is there any guarantee that Israel would abide by it when seen in light of its track record on adherence to U.N. resolutions?

Where does this leave Jordan, first and foremost, the country which has accommodated the bulk of displaced Palestinians over the decades, second as the country which has the longest Arab confrontation line with Israel, and third as the country which always acted as a moderating factor in the labyrinth of Middle East politics? Above all, isn't it simple logic that Israel will have to resort to mass eviction of Palestinians from the occupied territories to make room for the settlers, and that the displaced will end up on the East Bank of the Jordan River?

Jordan has as high a stake as anyone else in the perilous situation. At the same time, it is not simple rhetoric that the looming threat is not confined to Jordan alone but also to the rest of the Arab World. To the most pessimistic, any Israeli demographic fortification on the West Bank inevitably means another step towards realising the Zionist dream of a "Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates."

Let no-one overlook this Arab psyche and pull the wool over the world's eyes that Arab fears of an Israel swelling with immigrants are unfounded and an assumed posture.



## Solidarity seeks new roots

By John Daniszewski  
The Associated Press

ZYRADOW, Poland — In this textile centre, the Solidarity trade union collects used clothing for the poor, buys sugar wholesale to sell cheaply to workers and helps determine which managers the government should fire.

"We control everything in town and are trying to get involved in everything," said Zbigniew Ragan, a Solidarity leader at the state-owned Revolution of 1905 textile factory, which turns out linen fabric, tablecloths and napkins that are popular in Poland and abroad.

But he concedes that his membership is only a fraction of what it was during Solidarity's heyday in 1981. And some workers may lose their jobs because of the policies of the Solidarity-led government of Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Preparing for its first nationwide congress in nine years, the East bloc's first independent trade union is striving to sink new roots among a work force hard-hit by Poland's rough transition from Communist economics.

Ideally, Ragan and other leaders say, they should be concentrating their energies on defending workers' economic interests.

But for now, they say, Poland's economic crisis is too dire and the victory over the old Communist order still too fragile for Solidarity to flex its muscles as an aggressive trade union.

Instead the union is acting as a "shield" to protect its government from workers' complaints, says Jan Zak, chairman of the Solidarity chapter at the Zyradow technical fabrics factory, which makes synthetic fabrics for industrial uses.

Solidarity in 1981 registered 14,000 members in Zyradow — a city of 41,000 people — 50 kilometres southwest of Warsaw — compared with 2,000 members today, Ragan said.

The same trend holds true nationwide. In 1981, Solidarity was 10 million strong, more than half of Poland's adult work force. That was before the martial law that turned Solidarity into a banned organisation for eight years.

Membership is expected to be no more than 2.5 million by the time of the congress April 19-24, said Krzysztof Wyszowski, political editor at the Solidarity weekly newspaper Tygodnik Solidarnosc. That is less than the 6-million-strong unions formed by the Communist Party while Solidarity was banned.

Ragan and Zak said the lower

membership has more to do with apathy and finances than disenchantment with their reborn union. Many people simply cannot spare Solidarity's annual dues of one per cent of income, they contend, but in any decisive conflict workers support Solidarity.

Meanwhile, with a Solidarity government in power and Communists in retreat, the union has greater influence than ever, Ragan said.

Despite sharply rising prices and no wage increases, workers are not striking against the Solidarity-led government, Zak noted. But they do worry about job security.

There are plans for layoffs, Ragan said. If it cannot prevent them, Solidarity hopes to find new jobs for those laid off. While muting criticisms of the government, local Solidarity officials seek other ways to help members. At the Revolution of 1905 factory, Solidarity last year realised it could save workers money on sugar by buying it for them directly from a sugar beet refinery, bypassing Poland's food-store monopoly.

At the nearby Linen Industry Development Centre, Solidarity chairwoman Mieczysława Jedzejewska says her 48-member local is involved in reorganising

the institute. But it also collects clothes for the needy and makes loans to pensioners that probably never will be repaid.

"People write us saying they don't have enough money to buy dinner," she explains.

The upcoming Solidarity congress will be the first chance to gauge the rank-and-file's mood on a nationwide scale, and the depth of support for Chairman Lech Walesa and the national executive committee that has directed union in recent years in the absence of an elected leadership since 1981.

Walesa said recently he plans to step down as union leader. Solidarity's political struggle with the Communists — which led to the selection of longtime union activist Mazowiecki as the East bloc's first non-Communist leader — has pushed union organising to the back burner.

Now, many top union leaders and experts of 1980-81 are to be found not in the factories, but in the government, in parliament, or in the citizen's committees, Solidarity's political wing.

In the name of Poland's long-term national interests, they are enacting a stringent programme to reform the economy that strikes hardest at the very industrial workers who created Solidarity.

## Willy Brandt's North-South Commission back

By Kari Zawadzky

BONN (Dad) — While Western industrialised countries are experiencing a post-recession phase of continued economic growth, only a handful of Third World countries, mainly in Asia, report economic progress. For many countries in the southern hemisphere the 1980s was a "decade of failed attempts," said former German Federal Chancellor and SPD honorary chairman Willy Brandt at the end of a conference of members of his erstwhile North-South Commission in Bonn. Ten years after presentation of the final report of his "Independent Commission on International Development Affairs," a fresh attempt is to be made to breathe life into the North-South dialogue.

Members of the former Brandt Commission have reinforced their ranks with expert opinion in order to draw up a plan of action that is to be given an international airing this autumn. New members include Julius Nyerere, the former Tanzanian president, Luis Echeverria, the former Mexican president, Ingvar Carlsson, the Swedish premier, Robert McNamara, former US president of the World Bank, and Vladimir Martynov, director of the Institute of

World Economics and International Relations in Moscow.

For Willy Brandt, as for other members of the group, there can be no doubt that ensuring world peace, fighting famine and environmental protection, and progress towards lasting development will be the key issues of the years ahead. Joint efforts by East, West, North and South will be needed in trade and finance, technology transfer and environmental policy. As long as the developing countries' debt problems remained unsolved, Brandt added, economic and social development would likewise be impossible in Third World.

In view of détente in East-West relations, he now feels it is essential to ensure that the concepts he advocated a decade ago to link disarmament progress and development aid are not forgotten. At least some of the funds made available by cuts in arms expenditure ought, in his opinion, to be invested in the war on hunger and want and in financing development work.

Participants at the Bonn conference agreed that a North-South summit to be attended by East Bloc countries must be prepared.

## Does Jordan need tourism?

By Richard H. Henry

I HAVE had the rare privilege and pleasure of living in this unusual country of Jordan for the past year. My assignment as international tourism and marketing advisor to Royal Jordanian will soon end and it will be sad for me to leave Jordan. Although a strong and natural longing for the heart of home is a permanent, memories of this exciting, though sometimes enigmatic, land will travel back to the United States and remain with me.

My surveys have taken me to many corners of the country, and I have met wonderful, friendly and hospitable people everywhere, from cities to desert to valleys. Thanks to the organization "Friends of Archaeology," a congenial, interested, international group, field trips to working archaeological sites have further strengthened my conviction that Jordan offers a unique tourism product and experience.

While it is hard to leave what has been the most pleasant of my tourism assignments in some 13 countries from China to Chile, in the past 10 years since an early retirement from the United States Travel and Tourism Administration, I am somewhat perplexed by what I feel is a legitimate and vital question: Does Jordan really need tourism?

Obviously everyone interested in the economic future of Jordan should agree that the answer to both questions should logically be "Yes". But let us extrapolate from many fine articles in the Jordan Times by Dr. Fahed Faneek. In one of those articles, Dr. Faneek says "the government is called upon at this stage to clean up the investment climate to remove the obstacles facing serious and potential investors."

Too much has been said about an investment climate, but very little has been done so far. Dr. Faneek does not mention tourism, but his words could be applicable. I have rarely noticed in the press either a few to the point comments by Minister Nasser of International Trade, and other interested tourism professionals' remarks in official pronouncements on the economy of Jordan which have stressed the value of tourism to the country as an export.

It is true that some have spoken of the importance of tourism which has brought 16 per cent of the foreign exchange to the country recently with little promotion; but it is also true that few have translated their words into action. Much credit should be given to Jordanian tour operators, travel agents specializing in receptive, incoming tourism, several of which are "world class, international minded" organizations. These have been the real pioneers in bringing tourist groups and individuals to Jordan, along with the badly needed foreign exchange. Their productive activities antedated the establishment of the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities.

Royal Jordanian, another pioneer in carrying visitors to this country, signed in September 1988 an historic document to represent the Ministry of Tourism abroad through its (RJ's) network of offices. An "awesome assignment" indeed for the government airline which could contribute so much for tourism through training its sales staff abroad. But RJ can do only so much; and promotional literature, which could help sell Jordan as a destination, is presently lacking in RJ offices, particularly in North America where a potentially great market exists.

There is hope. A "consortium" or tourism marketing group is being formed and awaits legislation, to assist with preliminary funding of promotional materials on Jordan. The group consists of the public and private sectors with the Ministry of Tourism acting as the "umbrella" or coordinating factor. This is a major step, but as seen in other countries, including the USA, the private sector cannot "carry the ball" alone without the official recognition by the government of the importance of tourism, translated into action by realistic funding of the Ministry of Tourism and with the cooperation of other Ministries with peripheral ties to tourism.

The objectives stand out clearly: turn around the present economic position of Jordan by bringing in badly needed foreign exchange, help increase employment, and change the image and misperception of Jordan abroad, now seen as "part of the troubled Middle East" to that of a safe, viable, friendly and unique tourist destination. But as stated, the private sector

and the "consortium" with relatively limited marketing funds, cannot do it alone. Receptive agents in Jordan have their contacts with foreign tour operators, but realistically the tour operator abroad is not in the business of developing travel destinations; he (or she) is, instead, in the business of developing tours to destinations that will sell. The task of marketing Jordan cannot be shifted from the destination area organization, i.e. the Ministry of Tourism working with RJ as per the September 1988 agreement, to either the suppliers of the travel services or the travel trade in Jordan. The responsibility for this market development must rest with the Ministry of Tourism.

It goes without saying that mass tourism is not what is needed or wanted for Jordan. Nor is Jordan ready for greatly increased tourism in 1990/1991 owing to insufficient rooms in the key areas of Petra and Aqaba. "Controlled Growth Tourism" is necessary to gradually increase tourism numbers proportionately to new hotel rooms coming on line in Petra and Aqaba. Furthermore, with regards to Petra, a concerned group, the important Petra Trust, is working hard to ensure that Petra, one of the world's most unique destinations, will not be overrun and eroded by mass tourism. A controlled tourism policy can reassure those who are concerned about tourists affecting the culture of Jordan; other countries have managed to bring selective tourism segments of people with time, money and genuine interest in the country to be visited.

Where can additional funding be found for the Ministry of Tourism? I have suggested, without reactions, that many tourism organizations in the world are funded from hotel room taxes. An example is Singapore which recently increased its 3 per cent hotel room tax to 4 per cent with all monies going, not to the national treasury, but to the promotion of tourism. Jordan could take a percentage of the 10 per cent hotel and restaurant tax and follow Singapore's example which has had a booming tourism business, including incentive travel and conventions. Jordan has much to offer and is closer to world markets (Japan excepted) than Singapore. Another suggestion is

that of applying a part of the departure tax to promotion of tourism. Additionally, some of the increases in profits from tourism should be put back into promoting tourism. Surveys have shown that minimum promotional funds expended bring back many-fold foreign exchange to the country.

To cite other examples of tourism budgets compared to that of Jordan: the country of Haiti, with one of the poorest per capita income in the world, had, three years ago, more than Jordan's present tourism promotional budget, some \$200,000. In contrast, 1988 figures for promotional budgets of nearby countries show: Morocco \$7.8 million, Tunisia \$9.1 million, Cyprus \$3.3 million. Israel has asked for \$7.5 million in advertising dollars alone, with about half, or \$3.5 to \$4 million allocated to the United States, much of it placed in Christian media for the first time.

How can tourism be recognized as a major industry and export?

The World Tourism Organisation of the United Nations has strongly recommended for developing countries the adoption of a national tourism policy act. Several years ago the United States Congress legislated such a policy and created the US Travel and Tourism Administration under the Department of Commerce. The act created an under secretary of commerce for tourism. It spelled out close cooperation with other government departments (read "Ministries") and the private sector. The act emphasized the importance of tourism to the country, and in 1989, for the first time, there was a positive balance in the tourism account. The USA's total promotional budget was \$8.3 million, ranking the USA only 22nd in size of budget among other countries. Models of the national tourism policy act are available.

It is my fervent hope that someday and soon, tourism will be recognized with actions at the highest levels by legislating a national tourism policy for the benefit of the country at home and abroad. May Jordan prosper in the years ahead, still cherishing and promoting its many outstanding, vivid memories of centuries past for the benefit of future fortunate visitors-through tourism.

## Everything has a price

## Children tackle adults' problems — on stage

By Mariam M. Shabih  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — "Everything in life has a price — choose your priorities carefully"; this was the message conveyed last week by a children's play, "The Fisherman and the Rainbow Fish," at the Amman Baccalaureate School (IBS).

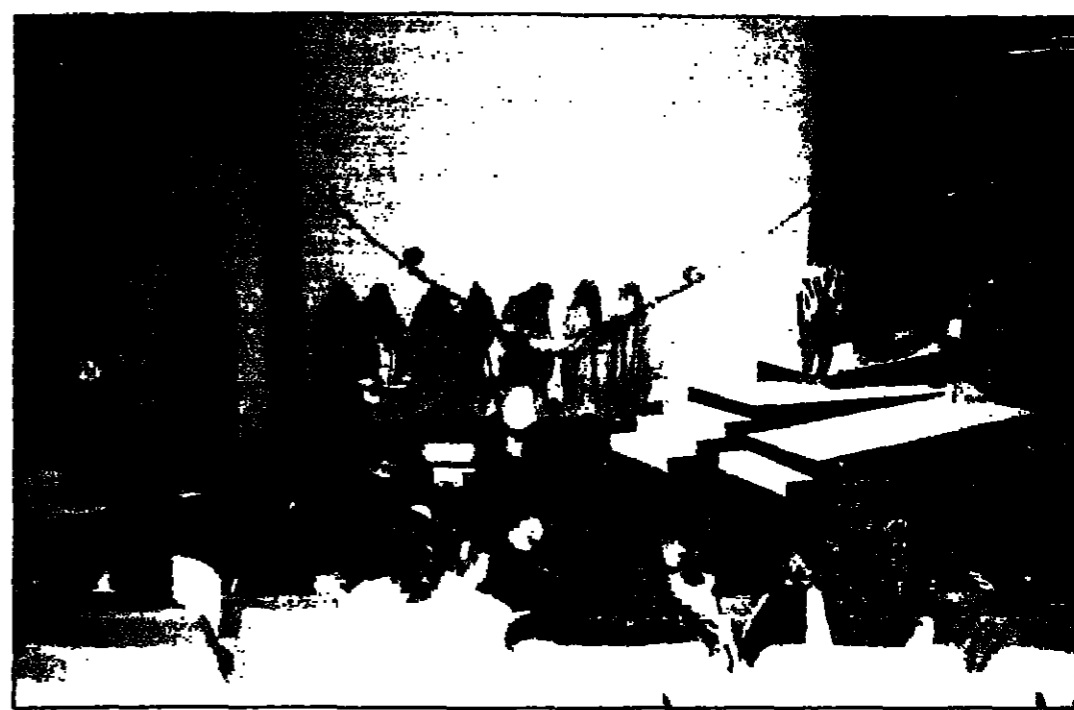
For five consecutive days, 27 IBS students acted, played cellos, violins, flutes and clarinets and managed the one-hour performance, which was directed by their drama teacher Hala Khoury.

"We had full houses for all four performances," said Khoury, who graduated two years ago with a degree in drama from the University of Yarmouk.

The play, written by Jordanian writer Nader Omran, dealt with the concept of human greed and its effects on human relations. While the child actors performed as grown-ups who either could or could not deal with sudden wealth and the "superficial" happiness that it brings, the play dealt with another significant concept, namely the sharing of wealth with the state.

While it may not have been the intention of Omran, the play touched upon one issue which may be of interest to not only the state but also those with wealth in our society as well. "Do not keep the treasure for yourself," said the fisherman to his wife, "give it to our ruler so that he may continue to take care of us." The theme thus touches upon very contemporary issues in our country's political and economic life.

On the surface, the play was a "school" production and often used techniques unrelated to the theme to make the audience laugh. On another level, it was a classical portrayal of real issues that cause social and economic ills. While not intending to read more between the lines than there actually was, the children exposed themselves and their audience to issues directly related to our society.



Children play adults' problems on stage last week's performance of The Key

While theatre in general and child theatre in particular have not taken on a populist appeal it may be worth one's while to go and see upcoming plays being performed by Jordanian schoolchildren.

Previous plays performed by the IBS children included "The Key" by Iraqi playwright Yousef Al Ani and "The Mice Hanging the Bell" also written by Omran. While both dealt with socio-political concepts, Khoury says, critics of theatre and child theatre alike gave the plays little attention and continue to complain of lack of effort on the part of child education experts to encourage theatre in schools.

"First of all, most of our formidable critics don't show up to watch the plays although we send them invitations. Secondly, this is a beginning and everyone has to begin somewhere and we have begun. We are beginning with classical concepts in an Arab environment," Khoury says. "Since there is not a long history of theatre in Jordan we have to

begin with classical themes before we advance to more modern surrealistic concepts."

Khoury feels that the use of the Arabic in children's plays is very important because it brings the children who are involved in child theatre in Jordan closer to home. Almost all children involved in any manner in child theatre in Jordan are those attending private schools who are often more exposed to non-Middle Eastern art forms and themes. "It's very important to note that many of the 16 children who acted in the play were expatriate children and their Arabic was weak when they began the class," Khoury said.

She said while many of the themes were not necessarily limited to geography dealing with more universal than regional themes, it was important for children to relate to their immediate environment as well as their universal one.

Although only part of the dialogue in the play was in classical Arabic, Khoury felt it was a big achievement for her

students, most of whom participated for the first time in a theatrical performance.

Asked if they wanted to continue participating in school productions the children unanimously said yes. Six said they would be interested in theatre at advanced stages in their education and thought of being involved in theatre as a career.

Some observers criticised the play and the performers for bringing in "elements" that they felt had little to do with "our society," because, as one critic put it, "I doubt that anyone's grandmother sold goods on the market the way it was portrayed in the play. It looked more like an Egyptian market scene than a Jordanian one."

Whether an accurate portrayal of life in Jordan or not, the Fisherman and the Rainbow Fish dealt with very authentic and contemporary themes. It was a fine example of team effort and an encouragement to those looking forward to further participation and creations by children in the world of theatre.

## Try La Parolaccia for a ridicule

By Jill Serjeant  
Reporter

ROME — Walking into Rome's La Parolaccia restaurant is like taking a curtain call in a Broadway flop.

Howls of derision greet every customer who squeezes through the narrow front door. By the time you sit down, you've probably been insulted more in five minutes than in the rest of your entire life.

It's all in an evening's work at the Parolaccia, where the customers get a tougher grilling than the steaks.

The owners have been serving up a recipe of bawdy jokes and a vicious line in personal abuse that has been packing diners into the rough and ready tavern for the past 37 years.

If you're lucky, a waiter will take your coat before squashing you behind a narrow table already shared by five other people. When you look for it, it will have been flung over one of the dozens of wine bottle racking the wall.

Thick white plates crash down on the table with ear-splitting force announcing the arrival of the first course — you've already realised it's best not to risk asking for the menu.

Above the din of guitars and accordions, the waiter makes apparently friendly inquiries about where you come from, who your partner is, or why you're alone.

Honesty does not pay. "From Milan? Yes, You've got the face of an idiot," the waiter replies.

"Here's one from Germany," comes a shout from another table. "Thought so, she's got a backside as big as a Volkswagen," reports his colleague to the raucous delight of the assembled company.

There's little to be done but cover red-faced in your seat and wait for attention to switch to the next hapless victim coming in through the door.

Often brusque and unwilling to put themselves out, Romans rank low in the qualities of courtesy and friendliness that are preva-

lent in the rest of Italy.

But at La Parolaccia — which means "swear word" — Signor Nino Insolente (literally "Mr. Insufferable") and his band of jesters have developed a no-holds-barred style of customer ridicule that makes the 100-seat tavern unique among Rome's more than 800 restaurants and pizzerias.

Every four-letter word invented, every joke and double entendre is used to flavour a ribald running commentary at the expense of the customers about cuckolded husbands, lusty wives and sexual prowess that is flavoured with a dash of lavatorial humour in the worst possible taste.

All sorts of people come here — young people, businessmen, foreigners. They love it," said Alberto Cianfanelli, one of the restaurant's three middle-aged owners.

"No one's ever taken offence. No one's ever walked out. If we see that a customer is really taking it badly, we lay off them and switch to somebody else," he

said. Musicians and waiters stroll the narrow passageway between tables, relentlessly baiting the diners with crude sign language, and eventually discover a young couple who have foolishly admitted they are on their honeymoon. They are subjected to a diatribe on married life and a stand-up question and answer session that has the rest of the customers rolling in the aisles.

The only light relief comes from the food, which is surprisingly good and plentiful, although it arrives erratically and there's little choice over what you get.

And at about 50,000 lire a head (\$40), the price is about right for medium-priced restaurants in Rome.

But scrutinising the indecipherable bill is guaranteed to provoke another cutting retort and, heading for the door, you realise with a sinking feeling that La Parolaccia is going to get the last laugh. "What a miserable tip, you tight-fisted?..." comes the inevitable parting shot.

## 3rd World's 'silent crisis' looms

Lion features

GIVEN the Third World's other, more immediate, problems, it is not surprising that its "silent crisis" is often in danger of being overlooked.

But the impact of the population explosion and its repercussions will be felt before long. For instance, one of the latest expert studies estimates that by the year 2010, developing countries will have to find jobs for 700 million more workers.

The size of this challenge may be gauged by pointing out that the total represents more jobs than are now available in all the industrialised nations.

Whether the 21st century world will be able to feed and house, let alone provide health care, education and jobs for all its people, will all too soon become a crucial issue that could even effect global

order and security.

Few, if any, are more aware of this than the United Nations' officials with special responsibilities for the organisation's policies relating to the population problem.

According to the U.N.'s medium-term forecasts, the world's population, which stood at 1.5 billion in 1990, will reach 6.2 billion by the end of the century. It could grow to ten billion before levelling off towards the end of the 21st century.

And by then, the U.N. estimates, about nine out of every ten persons will be living in what is now the developing countries.

Moreover, these figures are based on an assumption that Third World fertility will decline by one-third within the next four decades. But if the fall continues at today's rate, global population would not stabilise until it had

reached 14 billion.

Expert concern over population growth is sharpened by the realisation that much of the increase is occurring in already overcrowded urban areas of the Third World.

These are destined to become the feared megacities of tomorrow. Unless drastic action is taken in the meantime, Brazil's Sao Paulo, Mexico City, Calcutta, Cairo and Tehran will be among the largest of these megapolises.

It is estimated that Sao Paulo, which had about six million inhabitants in 1970, could contain as many as 23 million by the turn of the century. Over the same period, the Mexican capital's population could surge from eight million to 21 million, and that of the Iranian capital from three million to 13 million.

The quest for work, needing

the creation of about 35 million new jobs a year to satisfy, will only intensify this migration from the rural areas to urban centres.

And experts believe that even a steady, multifold increase in economic aid to the Third World would not be enough to ease the pressures and strains of population growth there and especially in sub-Saharan Africa. Demographic trends emphasise this fact.

By the year 2025, only about one person in six will be living in what is now the industrialised world — and it will be an ageing population. This will increase the burden of supporting the economically inactive members of the community.

Except in Africa and much of the Middle East, birth rates are now falling in developing countries. Nevertheless, in 37 of them the population is still rising by more than three per cent a year.

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## Rich countries give hope to East Bloc aid seekers

BRUSSELS (R) — The world's richest countries gave a strong hint Friday that they would soon give aid to East European states seeking Western money as they ditch communism.

Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, Romania and East Germany put in bids to join Poland and Hungary in an aid and support programme from 24 leading industrialised democracies, including the European Community (EC), the United States and Japan.

An EC spokesman said the meeting of senior officials from the 24 countries had not been set up to endorse new admissions, but wanted to encourage the countries anyway.

"The 24 confirmed their readiness to coordinate assistance... adapted to each country's own situation and on the basis of commitments... to political and economic reform," a statement said.

Reforming countries had to commit themselves to switching to a market-oriented economy and multi-party system, and to hold free elections to join the aid programme.

"But they don't have to fulfil

them 100 per cent before being entitled to benefit," the spokesman said. A clear indication the countries meant to go in the right direction would be enough.

Officials "expressed their encouragement and their support for the measures already taken or envisaged by each of the countries," the statement said.

And they endorsed a pragmatic approach to requests for billion dollar loans for Yugoslavia, help with nuclear safety for Czechoslovakia, and equipment to make antibiotics, carpets and shoes for East Germany.

Emergency medical and food needs were being treated separately, an EC official said, adding that Romania in particular had already benefited from this aid package.

Britain and West Germany suggested offering immediate help with management training, and access to a know-how fund to ease the switch to a market-oriented system, the EC spokesman said.

Fact-finding missions would go to all five countries to help complement submissions made during Friday's meeting.

The European Community called on the 12 members of the group to associate themselves with a billion dollar medium-term loan it pioneered to help Hungary's structural adjustment.

The first tranche of this, worth \$400 million, would be made available as soon as the International Monetary Fund agreed a standby agreement for the country.

The Group of 24 welcomed an announcement from Paris during their meeting that Poland's Western government creditors had agreed to reschedule a record \$9.4 billion of debt payments.

The accord, clinched after two days of talks, will postpone for 14 years the payment of \$9.4 billion in principal loans and interest — the largest sum yet rescheduled by the Paris Club.

The Group of 24 meeting was the fifth since the Group of Seven richest countries launched the aid push at their Paris summit last June.

Its officials meet in Brussels again on May 22, and ministers will hold their second meeting here in early June. The European Community's executive commission is coordinating the effort.

## Report highlights role of Jewish immigration

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's largest bank predicts Soviet immigration will sharply increase the Zionist state's population and boost its economy in the long term.

"This large immigration will be of tremendous benefit to Israel in its economic, social and security aspects," even though it will be fraught with substantial temporary difficulties, said a new economic report from Bank Hapoalim.

The bank said economic growth, which was only 1.1 per cent last year after a meagre 1.7 per cent in 1988, would accelerate dramatically under the impact of the new immigrants.

"Immigration will set the economy on a growth path of six per cent a year during the next four years," said the report issued this week.

The economic projections, which underline growing Israeli confidence, assumed military spending would remain stable and Soviet immigration would hit unprecedented levels.

The bank claimed the 26-month-old Palestinian revolt in the occupied Gaza Strip and West Bank was now having little effect on the economy.

The Israeli budget presented less than two months ago provided for the arrival of 40,000 immigrants, although the government conceded at the time its figures were probably already out of date.

Some 5,000 Soviet Jews a month are now arriving in Israel and Bank Hapoalim predicted the rate would rise steadily through the year to reach an annual total of 120,000.

After accounting for 20,000 to 30,000 Israelis leaving each year, the next inflow is expected to raise the population from 4.5 million now to 5.25 million by the end of 1993, the bank said.

"In the next four years immigration is anticipated to reach a total of about half-a-million people," the report said, a level of immigration unseen since the early days of the state.

However, the bank conceded the surge of immigration will also create initial difficulties for a country already suffering high unemployment and 21 per cent inflation.

Inflation will remain at the same level because of extra demand while the number of jobs will have to rise four per cent a year just to prevent an increase in the present unemployment rate of nine per cent, the bank said.

"This means that even with successful absorption of the immigrants, high unemployment rates must be expected in the next few years," it noted.

The extra funds needed to train, house and employ will raise the foreign debt by \$4 billion, the bank said. But that would be offset by the growth in the economy and would be a high-yield investment.

## U.S. trade deficit falls for 1989 but industrial production weakens

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. trade deficit dropped a surprising 30 per cent in December 1989 and helped bring the 1989 shortfall to a five-year low, the Commerce Department said Friday, but there were fresh signs of a weakening industrial economy.

The Federal Reserve Board said that in January output from the nation's mines, plants and utilities slipped to the lowest rate in more than 3½ years. Factories were running at only 81.9 per cent capacity compared with 83.1 per cent in December.

"The bottom line is that the industrial sector is in a recession," commented Allen Sinai, senior financial economist for First Boston Co. in Boston.

"It's not a big recession, but it's throughout a large part of the industrial sector," Sinai said. It has led to layoffs in auto and other manufacturing industries for 10 straight months.

The weakening domestic economy may have helped in shrinking the trade deficit to \$7.2 billion in December from \$10.3 billion in

November — the lowest since a \$6.79 billion gap in December 1984 — by curbing consumers' appetite for imports.

For the year, the deficit slid to \$108.6 billion from \$118.5 billion in 1988. It was the lowest shortfall since 1984, when it was \$106.7 billion.

Imports fell 5.9 per cent during December to \$38.3 billion. Exports rose 2.4 per cent from November levels to \$31.1 billion.

A rise in shipments from aircraft producer Boeing Co. after it settled a long strike boosted exports in December by as much as \$700 million, Sinai estimated, accounting for nearly all the foreign sales rise.

Auto sales picked up in January and early February because of dealer incentives, which may indicate consumer spending that accounts for about two-thirds of economic output will rebound.

David Jones, an economist with Aubrey Lanston and Co. in New York, noted there was an additional benefit for the trade balance from lower oil imports,

which fell in December by 10.5 per cent to 226 million barrels.

"Certainly the economy is vulnerable because not only are we seeing huge layoffs on the manufacturing side but it's spreading to the financial services side too," Jones said, referring specifically to the bankruptcy filing last week by junk bond broker Drexel Burnham Lambert which may cost thousands of jobs.

A Bush administration official, Commerce Undersecretary Michael Darby, said the trade figures were "quite encouraging" and showed hopeful trends including a 1989 surplus of \$1.5 billion with the European Community after a deficit in 1988 of \$9.2 billion.

The U.S. trade deficit with Japan — the largest with any single country — fell to \$3.5 billion in December from \$4.0 billion in November. For the full year 1989, the trade gap with Japan declined to \$49 billion from \$52 billion.

## Drexel fires thousands

NEW YORK (AP) — Drexel Burnham Lambert Inc. fired thousands of workers Friday as the former junk bond powerhouse continued dismantling as part of the largest bankruptcy filing in securities industry history.

"There are some tears today. We all regard it as a real shame and a tragedy," said John Oden, director of institutional placement in Beverly Hills, California. "I feel like it could have been prevented."

Drexel spokesman Steven Ameder said letters of termination were sent to the bulk of Drexel's 5,300 workers Friday. The remaining employees — from investment bankers to secretaries — will stay on temporarily to finish pending business.

"You've got assets here," Ameder said. "We still (have to) negotiate, try to straighten things out, real estate to unload." The investment firm said it was completing severance packages for most of the fired workers, which included the 400-member Beverly Hills junk bond division.

The operation long headed by Michael Milken was largely responsible for the firm's rise from the margins of Wall Street to billion-dollar profits and subsequent decline amid crushing scandals of the late 1980s.

The high-yield bond division was devastated last year by the departure of Milken after his indictment on fraud and racketeering charges, and the subsequent collapse of the junk bond market.

Meanwhile, most of Drexel's multi-billion-dollar U.S. Treasury securities portfolio was liquidated by Thursday, aided by a rise in bond prices in the past week, Drexel executives said.

The firm's junk bond holdings, estimated to be worth about \$1 billion, were being dumped below market value.

"There are parts of this business that are still good and represent value, and those will be disposed of in an orderly way," said Alan Miller, the bankruptcy lawyer handling the case.

Across Wall Street, competing firms picked at Drexel's carcass to evaluate what holdings might be worth taking over. Soon to be ex-Drexel employees were said to be job-hunting alone and in groups of up to 50 people.

"Sure we're looking at their clients. They had lots of good people working there as well," said Joel Cohen, head of mergers and acquisitions at Donaldson, Lufkin and Jenrette Securities Corp.

Arthur Kirsch, chief of Drexel's worldwide equity business, told his 600-member division he still was trying to arrange for a mass movement to another firm. Employees and analysts were sceptical that would happen to Drexel divisions, which consist of people and contacts — not products.

"I think it's a great proposal but nobody will buy it," said Perrin Long of Lipper Analytical Services.

Drexel itself has all but abandoned hope of getting any value for its divisions.

"We're more interested in seeing these people get settled and continue on with their professions," Ameder said. Indeed, the commodity trading firm Balfour Maclean Corp. said its London subsidiary had acquired Drexel's cocoa trading unit for free. Balfour got the unit's half-dozen employees and agreed to liquidate its cocoa positions.

### ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

#### Hanson buys 45% stake in Peabody

LONDON (AP) — British conglomerate Hanson PLC has said its U.S. arm was buying a 45 per cent stake in Peabody Holding Co. Inc., the largest coal producer in the United States, for \$504 million in cash. Sir Gordon White, chairman of Hanson Industries, called the purchase "an attractive investment." Hanson Industries agreed to buy the Peabody Holdings of three U.S. shareholders, Boeing Co., Bechtel Investments Inc. and Energy Company Eastern Enterprises. U.S.-based Newmont Mining Corp. is the other major shareholder in Peabody, with a 55-per cent share. Hanson owns a 49-per cent interest in Newmont Mining, acquired as part of its \$3.3 billion (\$5.6 billion) acquisition of Consolidated Gold Fields PLC in August 1989. White said more than half the electricity produced in the United States comes from coal, a resource far more abundant than petroleum. Peabody had pre-tax profit of \$136.5 million sales of \$1.74 billion in 1989. After-tax profit was not available, Hanson said.

#### Canary Islands to change tax system

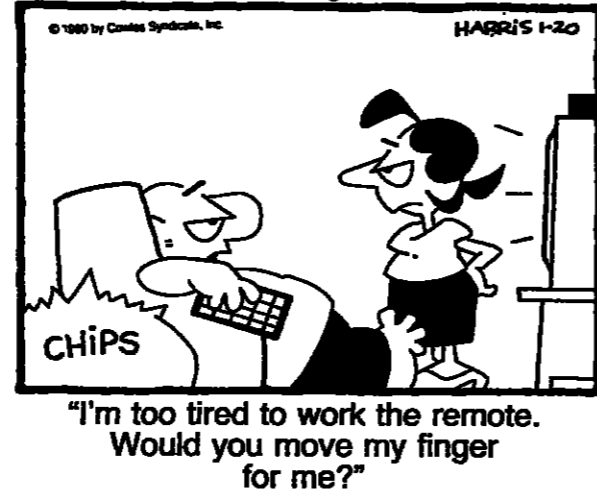
SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Spain (R) — The Canary Islands are to change their tax system to pave the way for full integration into the European Community (EC) the local government has said. The Canary Islands, a province of Spain off the northwest coast of Africa, opted out of the customs union, common farm policy and tax system of the EC when Spain joined in 1986 in order to protect the booming tourist industry. But Spanish authorities have now reached an initial agreement with the Canary government to bring its tax system into line with EC norms, an island government spokesman said. Thousands of British, West German and Scandinavian holidaymakers have flocked to the islands, attracted partly by their duty-free status. But tourism has slumped over the past year, and the Canary parliament sought full EC incorporation in December, although with concessions to reflect high transport costs to the islands. Under the accord, the seven islands which include Tenerife, Lanzarote and Gran Canaria, will in future levy a unified indirect tax in place of a series of local taxes.

### Weekly Amman Financial Market trading

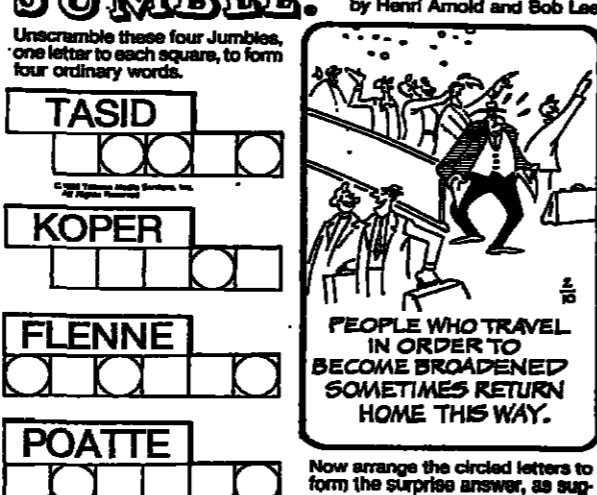
AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market starting Saturday Feb. 10, '90 and ending Wednesday Feb. 14, '90. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Per value
<b>Banking and financial institutions</b>					
Industrial Development Bank	2000	3504	1.750	1.760	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	6040	20831	3.590	3.410	1.000
Jordan Kwait Bank	9380	16066	1.680	1.700	1.000
Foreign Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	1816	26675	14.700	14.650	10.000
Arab Bank	5880	1504548	261.000	261.000	1.000
Jordan National Bank	15381	40093	2.550	2.600	1.000
Arab Banking Corporation Bank (Jordan)	150	195	1.300	1.370	1.000
Jordan Investment and Finance Bank	4100	14976	3.960	3.600	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	98210	229130	2.370	2.410	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	6171	15144	2.470	2.480	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	—	—	—	—	2.000
Bank Al Mal Saving & Investment for Housing	2550	2435	1.040	0.970	1.000
<b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>					
Middle East Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan French Insurance	75750	134605	1.850	1.810	1.000
Jordan Insurance	3468	8689	2.550	2.500	1.000
Arab Life and Accident Insurance	300	725	1.400	1.450	1.000
Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Holy Land Insurance	10151	22806	2.000	2.370	1.000
Philadelphia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Union International Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jerusalem Insurance	200	344	1.760	1.720	1.000
Jordan-Gulf Insurance	450	765	1.700	1.700	1.000
General Arabia Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
National Ahliya Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
Arab Belgian Insurance and Reinsurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Insurance	1972	4537	2.350	2.310	1.000
Arab Eagle Insurance	13815	14798	1.150	1.070	1.000
Universal Insurance	—	—	—	—	1.000
<b>Services and industries</b>					
General Investments	—	—	—	—	1.000
Investment and Financial Facilities	—	—	—	—	1.000
Darco for Housing and Investment	2500	2565	1.100	1.010	1.000
Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)	260646	246775	0.980	0.950	1.000
Jordan Gulf Real Estate Investment	398212	251665	0.700	0.670	1.000
Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments	238867	160602	0.560	0.650	1.000
Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero	151770	148138	1.070	1.100	1.000
International Contracting & Investment	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordanian Electric Power	8451	11856	1.410	1.420	1.000
Arab International Hotels	78108	121426	1.550	1.590	1.000
Hotels and Tourism	—	—	—	—	1.000
United Middle East and Commodore Hotels	62156	43311	0.750	0.710	1.000
Garage Owners Federation Office	450	2138	4.750	4.750	1.000
Jordan National Shipping Lines	2650	6532	2.500	2.540	1.000
Jordan Press Foundation	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Press and Publishing	1000	2000	2.000	2.000	1.000
Dar Al Shabah Press, Printing and Publishing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Dairy	1903	3240	1.840	1.660	1.000
Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing	35348	183326	5.210	5.170	1.000
Jordan Medical Corporation	1000	1230	1.300	1.250	1.000
Intermediate Petrochemical Industries	168397	518213	3.160	3.150	1.000
Jordan Phosphate Mines	26893	123538	4.600	4.600	1.000
Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj)	17672	3080	2.250	2.280	1.000
Arab Chemical Detergent Industries	6173	46867	7.550	7.800	1.000
Jordan Kuwait for Agricultural Products	105600	189330	2.100	2.100	1.000
Jordan Sweets and Chocolate Manufacturing	—	—	—	—	1.000
Aladdin Industries	7400	23003	3.350	3.180	1.000
Arab Aluminium Manufacturing	62143	178031	2.830	2.890	1.000
Jordan Worsteds Mills	200	1200	6.200	6.000	1.000
Jordan Ceramics	2950	8712	3.070	2.970	1.000
Chemical Industries	400	1346	3.430	3.410	1.000
Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)	36400	68208	1.980	1.920	1.000
Dar Al Daw' for Development and Investment	6608	27502	4.150	4.180	1.000
National Steel Industries	5486	13800	2.530	2.530	1.000
Universal Chemical Industries	20860	113243	5.400	5.450	1.000
General Mining	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Petroleum Refinery	14415	115244	8.000	8.000	1.000
Jordan Lime & Brick	77335	104939	1.400	1.410	1.000
National Industries	4250	3000	0.680	0.700	1.000
Arab Paper Converting and Trading	579262	572200	1.020	1.010	1.000
Arab Investment and International Trade	16800	23224	3.500	3.600	1.000
Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)	16280	19017	1.280	1.240	1.000
Livestock and Poultry	8750	28723	3.350	3.290	1.000
Jordan Pipes Manufacturing	95100	309078	3.200	3.250	1.000
Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags	650	6468	9.980	9.950	1.000
Jordan Paper and Cardboard	2150	6334	3.140	2.990	1.000
Jordan Rockwood Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Trans-Jordan Minerals Research	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Himeh Mineral	—	—	—	—	1.000
Orient Dry Batteries Factory	8111	12906	1.600	1.600	1.000
Wooden Industries	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tanning	—	—	—	—	5.000
Jordan Printing and Packaging	—	—	—	—	1.000
Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette	—	—	—	—	1.000
Ice Industries	96131	220033	2.200	2.380	1.000
Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals	35150	175879	5.010	5.000	1.000
National Cable & Wire Manufacturing	105733	268214	2.610	2.580	1.000
Jordan Spinning & Weaving	42100	117282	2.800	2.850	1.000
Jordan Cement Factories	239177	276916	1.150	1.160	1.000
Jordan Glass Industries	188750	270429	1.470	1.480	1.000
Jordan Precast Concrete Industry	163664	105118	0.670	0.660	1.000
National Quarry	17550	21133	1.130	1.200	1.000
Grand total	3,784,254	7,255,896			

### THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: "KINKY GLEAM VALISE AWKLE"

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumble: KINKY GLEAM VALISE AWKLE

Answer: One way to keep friends is not to do this — "GIVE THEM AWAY"

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I'M TOO TIRED TO WORK THE REMOTE. WOULD YOU MOVE MY FINGER FOR ME?

I KNOW, RUB

## Becker reaches final of Indoor Belgian

By Bert Lammens  
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Top seed Boris Becker beat sixth-seeded Magnus Gustafsson of Sweden 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) to reach the final of the \$600,000 Belgian Indoor ATP tennis tournament Saturday.

The West German world number two took the first set after a service break in the fifth game, prompting Gustafsson to change tactics and rush the net.

The strategy paid dividends as the 23-year-old Swede, ranked 36th in the world, broke Becker in the fourth game of the second set to lead 5-2.

Becker repeatedly cried out in frustration at missing shots and threw his racket high into the air during the seventh game before regaining his composure and breaking back.

He broke Gustafsson twice to love for a 6-5 lead but the Swede broke back to take the set to a 6-5 tiebreak which Becker won 7-4 after twice diving to stop passing shots.

Becker said of his second set outburst: "It's not so much that I get angry, it's more that I get into the match. I put my heart more into the match."

## Kuwait emblem unacceptable to Saudi Football Federation

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Saudi Arabia's Football Federation Saturday said it was not participating in the upcoming Gulf Cup tournament in Kuwait because the event's emblem was unacceptable.

The Saudi federation rapped Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, the president of Kuwait's Football Association, for the emblem, which used symbols linked to Saudi military defeats earlier this century.

The football federation statement distributed by the official Saudi press agency pointed out that the emblem was the horses Ebiyan and Showayma, but did not explain their significance.

Kuwait residents said the two horses were considered vital in a battle in the early decades of the century in which Kuwait repulsed an invasion from Saudi Arabia.

It is known as the battle of Al Jahra, named after the site where it took place, some 30 kilometers north of Kuwait city.

"The Saudi Football Federation knows full well that Sheikh Fahd ... knows the full reasons

that led to the decision" to pull out the Saudi team from the tournament, said the statement, also rejecting Sheikh Fahd's statements that he was not officially advised of the Saudi cancellation.

The confrontation involves relatives close to the rulers of both nations.

Sheikh Fahd, chairman of the Kuwait Olympic Committee and a member of the International Olympic Committee, is a brother of the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah.

"The reasons lie in the emblem that the supreme organising committee led by Sheikh Fahd adopted for the 10th Gulf Cup soccer tournament, the two horses Ebiyan and Showayma, and the accompanying statement," the Saudi Football Association announced.

"It is something ancient and it was not suitable that such be taken as an emblem for a sports championship meant to foster friendship and love along honourable sports principles among the sons of the Gulf Arab states."

## Iraqi team leaves for Kuwait to defend its Gulf Cup title

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's national soccer team left for Kuwait Saturday to defend its regional title in the 10th Gulf soccer tournament.

The team is anxious to hit a winning streak again after a series of recent defeats. These included its failure to qualify for the Asian Nations Games last year, the World Cup championship to be played in Italy in June and the 1992 Olympic Games in Barcelona.

Team coach Anwar Jassam said he hoped the revamped team, which includes seven international players, will retain the Gulf title it won in 1988.

The tournament, which is staged every two years, begins Tuesday and will last through March 9.

The Iraqis will have to defeat tough teams like the United Arab Emirates, which qualified for the World Cup, and the equally strong Kuwaitis who won the Gulf title four times.

The Iraqi team is flying to Kuwait after spending a rigorous month in training camp and playing warm-up friendly matches against Denmark, Norway and South Korea.

Jassam is taking 22 players with him to Kuwait, including the core of the national team which played in the 1986 World Cup finals in Mexico.

He will be relying on veteran players like striker Hussein Saeed and defenders Adnan Dirjal and Ahmad Radhi to lead the less experienced players recruited for the tourney from local clubs.

Iraq won the trophy in 1975, when it was held in Baghdad for the first time, and again in 1988 when it was played in Saudi Arabia.

Meantime an official announcement said President Saddam Hussein's eldest son, Uday, who was elected to his old job as chairman of the Iraqi Soccer Federation Monday, was also reinstated Saturday as chairman of the National Olympic Committee.

A spokesman for the Olympic committee said Uday was re-elected during an emergency meeting of the committee only hours after the incumbent president, Karim Al Mowallah, resigned.

Al Mowallah, who had succeeded Uday as chairman of the soccer federation also, resigned from that post as well Monday.

Uday's reinstatement to the Olympic committee was announced only a few hours before Juan Antonio Samaranch, president of the International Olympic Committee, was due in Baghdad on a regional tour to discuss Olympic issues.

## Liverpool into F.A. Cup quarterfinals

LONDON (R) — Holders Liverpool reached the quarterfinals of the English Football Association (F.A.) Cup on Saturday with a 3-0 win over Southampton.

But last year's losing finalists Everton failed to end second division Oldham Athletic's 32-match unbeaten home record, drawing 2-2.

On a day of no major upsets, the greatest surprise in the fifth round was caused by Oldham, who came back from a seemingly hopeless two goals down at home to snatch a draw on their controversial artificial pitch.

Liverpool playing the day's only all first-division tie, were in fine form with Welsh striker Ian Rush scoring his 19th goal of the season.

Aston Villa, second in the

league, won 2-0 at second division midlands neighbours West Bromwich Albion.

First division Crystal Palace, whose goalkeeper cost 50 times as much as fourth division Rochdale's entire team, stopped their opponents' best ever cup run with a 1-0 home win.

On Sunday, Manchester United play second division Newcastle in their cup tie while third division Blackpool host first division Queens Park Rangers and Sheffield United are at home to Barnsley in an all second division encounter.

In the English first division, champions Arsenal slumped to a 1-0 defeat at Sheffield Wednesday but remain third, eight points behind Liverpool and seven behind Villa.

In the F.A. Cup, third division Bristol City, who beat first division Chelsea 3-1 in the fourth round, were held to the only goalless draw of the round at home to fourth division Cambridge.

Oldham, who effectively won a place in the league cup final when they trounced West Ham 6-0 in the first leg of their semifinal Wednesday, seemed buried when Everton went 2-0 ahead in the space of five minutes in the first half.

Scotland striker Graeme Sharp struck in the 22nd minute and former West Ham star Tony Cottee seemed to have secured his old club's revenge with a flick four minutes later.

But Oldham hit back. A 60th minute penalty gave Andy Ritch-

ie his 25th goal of the season and Roger Palmer made it 1-2 with a 66th minute header.

Everton's Merseyside rivals Liverpool had it all their own way at Anfield, England striker Peter Beardsley scoring his 14th goal of the season in the 64th minute and Scotland international Steve Nicol chipping in the third in the 77th.

Liverpool have now gone 16 games without defeat.

Villa booked their quarterfinal slot after centre-half Derek Mountfield headed home in the 24th minute and winger Tony Daley hit a virtuoso solo goal in the 88th.

The last time they met West Bromwich met in the competition was in 1957, when Villa won a semifinal replay 1-0.

## 'Tyson needs former handlers'

NEW PALTZ, New York (AP) — Count former heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson among those who think Mike Tyson needs to take back his old handlers if he hopes to reclaim his crown.

"I have nothing against Mike Tyson but I feel sorry for the lifestyle he leads," Patterson said. "He needs to be around boxing people. He's got to be around Kevin Rooney, and guys like that. If Cus (d'Amato) was alive, all this wouldn't be happening."

Tyson lost his unified heavyweight boxing crowns last weekend in Tokyo to James "Buster" Douglas in a stunning upset.

Tyson fired Rooney as his trainer in 1988 for comments Rooney had made about the former champion's lifestyle. Tyson also had a falling-out with his manager, Bill Cayton, as the boxer married and divorced actress Robin Givens and moved closer to promoter Don King.

D'Amato, who had trained Tyson since his early teens and who also trained Patterson to the heavyweight championship, died in 1985.

"If he had stayed with the people he was originally with, he would have done better (against

Douglas)," Patterson said. "He had no defence at all. He didn't bob and weave once in that fight."

Patterson said a change in management would not guarantee success when Tyson fights Douglas again.

"Douglas as the perfect style to beat Tyson every time," said Patterson, who lives in New Palitz and trains fighters, including his adopted son, Tracy Patterson, the North American Boxing Federation's super bantamweight title.

"This guy Douglas threw combination, Tyson didn't," Patterson continued. "This guy has two ways of boxing — move and box, or stand there and slug it out. Tyson fights one way, and that's to come boring in. But Douglas didn't step back and let Tyson hit him. He moved side to side or caught Tyson coming in."

"Based on what I saw, if they fought seven days a week (Douglas) would beat Tyson seven days a week," Patterson told the Poughkeepsie Journal earlier this week.

Rooney, who trains boxers in Catskill, New York, says he'd work for Tyson again if the former champion asks him. Rooney has also criticised Tyson's preparation for the Douglas fight,

## Navratilova meets Shriver in Chicago semifinals

CHICAGO (AP) — Top-seeded Martina Navratilova overcame Tami Whittinger 6-0, 6-1 Friday night to advance to the semifinals of the Virginia Slims of Chicago tennis tournament.

Navratilova, going for her 10th Chicago title, meets eighth seed and former doubles partner Pam Shriver for the 38th time in a semifinal.

The second seed and defending champion, Zina Garrison, faces fifth seed Manuela Maleeva in an evening match.

Garrison beat France's Nathalie Tauziat 6-3, 7-5, while Maleeva breezed past Rosalyn Fairbank, 6-1, 6-0.

Navratilova dominated her match, registering four aces.

"I learned an awful lot of what I have to work on," said Whittinger, ranked 110th in the world.

Navratilova said she, too, had a lot to work on, even though she's ranked number two behind Steffi Graf. "My footwork still leaves a lot to be desired and my serve and forehand could be better," she said.

Shriver has lost 34 of her 37 previous meetings with Navratilova and has not won since the 1982 U.S. Open.

But, said Navratilova, "I still expect a close match."

Garrison volleyed well at the net against France's number one player and took advantage of several unforced errors.

Tauziat had lost her serve in the 10th game of the second set, squaring the games at 5-5 after breaking Garrison in the ninth game.

But Garrison served her fifth ace to grab a 6-5 lead, then broke Tauziat in the 12th game when she double-faulted to end the match.

Maleeva said she was surprised at beating Fairbank easily.

"While my tennis is improving, I've still got to improve to break into the top five," said Maleeva, ranked number eight in the world.

Fairbank, number 27, held serve only once, in the fourth game of the opening set when she had two service winners. She then double-faulted twice to lose the opening game of the second set.

Maleeva served a pair of aces in the second game, and closed the match with another ace and a service winner.

Garrison beat Maleeva in three sets in last year's semifinals, and Maleeva said she doesn't want to make the same mistake this year.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
8 TAMIAM WISSE  
© 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### PROCEED IN AN ORDERLY WAY

Both vulnerable. South deals. NORTH

WEST EAST  
♠ Q 10 7 3 ♠ 5  
♥ 10 3 ♥ 9 7 6 5  
♦ 10 9 8 4 ♦ 7 6 5 3 2

SOUTH  
♠ A J 9 6 2  
♥ A Q 8 7  
♦ 4 2  
♣ Q 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♠ Pass  
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♣ Pass 6 NT Pass  
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Ten of ♠. Don't look at a particular card combination in the abstract. Consider the whole hand. How you play one holding could be affected by what happens elsewhere, and vice versa. As an example, study this hand and decide what card you would lead from dummy at trick two after you win West's opening diamond lead.

No sooner had South opened the bidding than North decided to drive

the hand to slam. However, there was no need to respond more than two diamonds and consume bidding space unnecessarily. We are surprised, though, at North's choice of final contract. With a balanced 21 count, we would have opted for 6 no trump.

Against six spades West led the ten of clubs. The minor suits were going to provide declarer with three discards, but declarer would still have to rely on a finesse to avoid a heart loser. Then there was the question of the trump suit. Have you decided what to do yet?

Take full credit if you elected to run the jack of hearts at the second trick. Why? Because you don't know how to play the trump suit until you know whether you have a heart loser! Suppose the jack of heart loses to West's king. Now you cannot afford to surrender a trump trick as well. Your best shot, therefore, is to cash the king of trumps and then finesse the jack.

But when the jack of hearts wins, you can protect against the possibility of losing two trump tricks. Cash the ace of trumps and lead towards dummy, simply covering any card that West produces. As long as trumps are no worse than 4-1, you have limited your losers in the suit to one.

## THE Daily Crossword by Stanley B. Whitman

ACROSS	DOWN
1 Holiday role	1 Navy
4 Year	2 Insect stage
8 In a frenzy	3 Commands
12 Wingless	4 Layside
13 Express	5 Slew
15 Deadly poison	6 Discontent
16 Angles	
17 Donkey sound	
18 Mercantile firm	
22 Dangling one	
23 Pay attention	
24 Priest's robe	
27 Reasonable	
29 Borders	
31 Swiss canton	
34 Wigwag's cousin	
37 Impasse (deadlocked)	
38 Fonds film	
42 Pals	
43 Splash	
44 Hosp. people	
45 Eccentric old	
46 Goes to court	
50 Coastal	
51 Possessive	
54 Meal	
56 Kentucky	
58 Derby winner	
61 Norse deity	
63 Cube great (with 20D)	
64 Salt jester	
65 Son of Jacob	
67 King Lear's daughter	
68 Not active	
69 Food regimen	
70 Torn	
71 Shoe width	
72 Down	
73 Navy	
74 Insect stage	
75 Commands	
76 Layside	
77 Slew	
78 Discontent	

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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

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76 Layside	
77 Slew	
78 Discontent	

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY FEBRUARY 18, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A Sunday to make plans for your business or vocational outlets for the rest of the year no matter your occupation happens to be. Balance your liabilities and assets.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Expect some interesting friends to arrive from a distance now. Take your family to interesting outdoor places of recreation.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take some thoughtful presents now to members of your family. Several persons you both like will entertain you and your loved one.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can learn a great deal by inviting intelligent persons into your home. Get your surroundings more as your attachment would like them to be.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Jaunt to see relatives and friends, as this will be productive of beneficial results. A good day to get your home in smooth working order.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You want to get away for a change from your home, so do so now. Much activity with your attachment now will bring good results.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get off along with good friends for having happiest moments. You now have a chance to get conditions improved with your attachment.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Go along now with what discriminating friends want you to do. You can now enjoy those long

## Agassi rings in the new with some of the old fire

By Linda Pentz  
Reuter

SAN FRANCISCO — Andre Agassi, the brash 19-year-old American who fell on hard times last year, has mellowed, picked up his game and started his 1990 campaign on a winning note.

An emphatic 6-1 6-3 victory over compatriot Todd Witsken in the final of the San Francisco tennis championships last Sunday — the first U.S. event on the ATP calendar — equalled his entire title credits for 1989.

Agassi rocketed to third in the world in 1988 by winning six titles and reaching two Grand Slam semifinals.

But last year, with just one title and his first Davis Cup defeat, Agassi succumbed to a barrage of negative press over a perceived lack of will, erratic performances

and a circus-like atmosphere that often surrounded his matches.

This season Agassi appears to have tempered his on-court behaviour, applauding opponents less often, indulging in less repartee with fans and occasionally tossing his sweat-soaked shirts into the stands after matches.

But his legion of female teenage followers should not despair. He has retained his trademark long, blond-streaked hair and the new outfit he unveiled at the year-end masters — the denim shorts have made way for black shorts over bright pink bicycle tights — is flashier than ever.

Agassi still aims to please, but says he has learned to "discipline myself and grow up" during the six-week layoff prior to his first tournament this year.

He has also begun to experi-

ment with a serve and volley game, a tactic he used with increasing confidence and good results as he advanced through the San Francisco tournament.

"I made more than I missed which is an achievement in itself," said Agassi, who played doubles for the first time in two years to further hone his volleying skills. He and American partner Martin Blackman reached the quarter-finals.

Agassi still aims to please, but says he has learned to "discipline myself and grow up" during the six-week layoff prior to his first tournament this year.

He has also begun to experi-

## MAID WANTED

To work for a Jordanian family  
Call tel. 812754

## PASSPORT LOST

Jaspal, an Indian national living in Jordan has lost his passport Number T-403515 issued by the Embassy of India in Amman.

If found please contact P.O. Box 4589 or the nearest Police Station.

## PASSPORT LOST

I, Babul Idris Ali, of Bangladeshi nationality, declare that I have lost my passport No. E 068907 issued in Dacca on Aug. 80, 1982.

If found it please call Tel. 665572 or deliver to the nearest police station.

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Reputable and well established large Saudi industrial group is looking for qualified and experienced personnel for one of its divisions (trucks/cars sales agency). Requirements are as follows:

1. Accountant:
  - University equivalent accounting degree.
  - At least five years experience in similar position with touch key adding ability.
  - Capable of supervising accounting subordinates and report to accounting supervisor.
  - Candidate should have potential to be promoted to more senior accounting position.
  - Speak, read, and write English well.
  - Home country driver licence.

2. Sales Representative:
  - University degree or equivalent diploma/certificate in automobile trade. (Mechanical background preferred).
  - Min. four years experience in similar position.
  - Speak, read, and write English well.
  - Home country driver licence.

Interested candidates may send resumes with copies of educational and experience certificates, photocopy of passport and driving licence, 2 recent passport size photographs, along with references, if any, and candidate's telephone number and mailing address to:

The Personnel Manager,  
P. O. Box 195, Al-Khobar - 31952,  
Saudi Arabia.

Cinema Tel: 625155

## RAINBOW

## THE PICK UP ARTIST

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 677420

## CONCORD

## LICENCE TO KILL

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 634144

## PHILADELPHIA

## MY TUTOR

Performances: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema Tel: 675571

## NJOUM

Michel Kiton  
star of Batman in  
**BEETLE JUICE**

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30,

## 'No unification' if West insists on NATO membership—Soviet expert

WEST BERLIN (AP) — A top-ranking adviser to Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev said Saturday "there won't be any German unification" if the West insists on a NATO membership for the combined German states.

The questions of NATO membership and the German military stance have become increasingly important as officials try to work out the details for reuniting East and West Germany.

"If the Western alliance sticks with its demand for a NATO membership of all of Germany, then there won't be any German unification," Valentin Falin said in an interview with Saarland State Radio.

Falin, in addition to serving as a Gorbachev adviser, is the head of the international section of the Soviet Communist Party's Central Committee. He also is a former Soviet ambassador to West Germany.

Falin called on Western nations to ensure peace in Europe. "We are talking about doing away with the military factor in Europe overall," said Falin.

West German officials, pushing ahead with plans for German unification, have proposed a 16-state federal system and a defence strategy linked to continued membership in NATO.

"Defence obligations are indivisible and cannot be weakened for a whole Germany," Defence Minister Gerhard Stoltenberg said Friday, adding that military integration will be an initial step.

Stoltenberg said a cornerstone of the plan being discussed in his ministry was membership in NATO.

Stoltenberg said defence officials of East Germany and West Germany will meet after the East German elections March 18 to work out a joint security policy. He said the continued presence of Soviet troops in what is now East Germany was open to discussion.

He raised the possibility of a "transitional phase" in which the West German and East German armies would cooperate while retaining their own command structures. But he also said, "we are not going to have two different armed forces in a united Germany for long."

Governors of West Germany's 11 states, divided between Kohl supporters and opposition Social Democrats, conferred about how

to administer a united Germany and voted unanimously for a 16-state federal system.

They proposed dividing East Germany into five states along the lines of traditional regions: Brandenburg, Mecklenburg, Sachsen, Sachsen-Anhalt and Thuringen. That system was abolished under Communist rule, which divided the state into 15 administrative regions.

West Germany's federal system allows considerable autonomy to individual states and is similar to the U.S. model.

Gov. Björn Engholm of Schleswig-Holstein, a Social Democrat, said a joint council of governors from the 16 Eastern and Western states should convene this year.

Lothar Spaeth, conservative governor of Baden-Wuerttemberg, said the East Germans could save years of legislative haggling by adopting West German laws and regulations. That would speed monetary union and economic reform, he said.

In East Berlin, the interim Communist-led government said it was preparing a law that would allow private companies in such sectors as construction, transport, tourism and small- and middle-sized factories.



## Kyi name missing in election list

RANGOON, BURMA (AP) — The name of Burma's leading opposition figure did not appear Saturday in the final list of candidates for the May 27 general election — the first multi-party race since 1960.

Aung San Suu Kyi, 44-year-old daughter of assassinated independence hero Aung San, was disqualified from the parliamentary election Jan. 16 by the election commission, which was appointed by the military government to administer the promised poll.

The decision, which was never officially announced, came after a rival candidate from the main pro-military party objected to her candidacy.

Although Suu Kyi had applied to run, her name was not on the election list when it was posted Saturday outside the commission's Rangoon office, witnesses said.

No other member of Suu Kyi's party, the national league for democracy, was listed in her place, they said.

Suu Kyi, who has been the most outspoken critic of military rule in Burma, was put under house arrest in July. She has been accused of subversion, but no formal charges have been filed against her.

Her disqualification follows charges that she was linked to a banned Student Rebel Group and owed her allegiance to Britain. Suu Kyi is married to a Briton, but holds a Burmese passport.

On Friday, Western diplomats in Rangoon said at least 25 opposition parliamentary candidates, campaigning for seats from Rangoon, had been detained since Feb. 8. Hundreds of dissidents also have been detained in the past three months, they said.

Most of the detained candidates were members of Suu Kyi's party but it was unclear what charges, if any, they faced, or whether any had been released, the diplomats said.

A spokesman for the military government, Col. Than Tun, told a press conference Friday that only nine candidates had been "called in for questioning," including six members of the national league. One was released, he said.

Than Tun did not explain why the candidates were detained. In January, the co-leader of Suu Kyi's Party, Tin Oo, was sentenced to three years at hard labour on charges of subversion, and U Nu, the last democratically elected prime minister, was put under house arrest and barred from the election.

## Romanian defence minister quits

BUCHAREST, (R) — Angry protests by air force and army officers have forced the resignation of Romania's controversial defence minister, General Nicolae Militaru.

Officers who have been demanding a purge of generals connected with the regime of ousted dictator Nicolae Ceausescu had been pressing for Militaru's resignation.

"President Ion Iliescu has accepted the request to resign made by general Nicolae Militaru," Romanian television said, quoting the provisional national unity council, which is governing the country until free elections scheduled for May 20.

The National Salvation Front which took power after last December's revolution had been heavily criticised for appointing Militaru, 74. Critics said he was too old and tainted by past association with Ceausescu.

A representative group of 40 officers carrying a list of 13 demands spent three days negotiating with the provisional government this week.

With thousands of uniformed military personnel and civilian protesters demonstrating outside government headquarters, the negotiations ended abruptly on Wednesday, prompting speculation that the military had got what it wanted.

The government announced late Friday that Militaru would be replaced by Economy Minister Victor Stanculescu, 62.

Despite the fact that he served as a deputy defence minister under Ceausescu during the 1980s, newspapers have described Stanculescu as a favoured choice of the disaffected officers.

But one of protesters' key demands, that a civilian be appointed to head the defence ministry, was not granted. Like Militaru, Stanculescu is a senior military officer.

Romanian television said some of Militaru's actions had led to dissatisfaction among the military.

"In the last few years of the dictatorship he (Militaru) has been one of the officers who organised military resistance against the dictator," it said.

"However some of the methods and measures adopted by the leadership of the ministry have led to dissatisfaction among the military, bringing about a certain tension that could have been avoided," it added.

The officers had also demanded the resignation of Interior Minister Mihai Ghitac.

Ghitac, a four-star general, has been accused of directly participating in ordering troops to fire on demonstrators in the western town of Timisoara Dec. 16.

Early on Saturday, however, Ghitac remained in his job.

## Cheney plays down Aquino row

HONG KONG (AP) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Saturday he plans to play down his highly publicized spat with Philippine President Corason Aquino and focus on "the things that unite us" during his talks next week in Manila.

"I would hope that any unpleasantness is minimised," Cheney said during an interview aboard the U.S. air force jet carrying him to this British colony from Seoul, South Korea.

Cheney's schedule Saturday included lunch with Hong Kong Gov. Sir David Wilson. He planned to meet Sunday with the U.S. ambassador to the Philippines, Nicholas Platt, before travelling

to Manila Monday.

Cheney decided last week to shorten his stay in the Philippines by a day after Aquino announced she would refuse to see him because of negative U.S. press coverage of her government and U.S. payments for the use of six military bases in the Philippines.

Cheney is on a two-week tour of the Pacific rim to reassess the U.S. military role in the region. He was expected to inform the Philippine and Japanese governments that they can expect a 10 per cent to 12 per cent cut in U.S. troops based in Asia over the next three years, and that the U.S. Congress is unlikely to keep paying as much for their support

as in the past.

In South Korea, Cheney reaffirmed Washington's "unqualified" security commitment to that nation but said the United States plans by 1993 to cut 10 per cent to 12 per cent of the 23,000 American troops stationed in Asia.

He said some 5,000 troops would be withdrawn from South Korea and another 7,000 to 9,400 pulled out of the Philippines and Japan. Details of the cuts will be worked out later, he said.

"We are not going to move precipitously... our commitment remains strong," he said.

On Saturday, Cheney characterised his Manila visit as "an important stop."

## Bolivians welcome U.S. aid on drugs

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Farmers and government officials say the Cartagena drug summit will have no immediate impact on Bolivia's anti-drug campaign.

However, the officials are pleased that the United States recognised a shared responsibility for cocaine trafficking and will provide more financial support for alternative crops to replace coca grown by Bolivian farmers.

"In the short term I don't think the Cartagena summit will have much impact on fighting cocaine trafficking," Information Minister Maurelio Kempff said "in a medium term, though, we should be able to count on greater collaboration from the United States."

President Jaime Paz Zamora attended the Thursday summit in Cartagena, Colombia, along with the presidents of Peru, Colombia and the United States.

In the communique, the four presidents noted that persuading Andean farmers to turn from coca production to legal crops would have "significant, immediate and long-term economic costs" on Colombia, Peru and Bolivia.

U.S. President George Bush pledged to request an economic aid package from Congress for fiscal 1991 to 1994 to help offset these losses, the communique said.

Evo Morales, leader of the Chapare Coca Leaf Farmers Union, said the Cartagena summit did not provide concrete programmes to address the needs of farmers.

"In the summit declarations there is nothing clear and it does not assure us markets or prices for alternative crops. We do not trust the Bolivian or American governments," Morales said.

Pastor Velazquez, leader of the country's farmers confederation, said that "only general positions were approved" at the summit. He said that without more funds invested in rural areas, the eradication of coca will remain "practically paralysed."

## Hong Kong constitution celebrated

BEIJING (R) — China's senior leaders, including 85-year-old Deng Xiaoping, made a rare public appearance Saturday to celebrate the drafting of Hong Kong's constitution, take effect after Britain relinquishes control of the colony in 1997.

The climax of more than four years of often controversial talks is widely seen as a diplomatic success for Beijing.

Five of China's most powerful men posed in the Great Hall of the People for a group photograph with the Chinese and Hong Kong drafting committee delegates — all appointed by Beijing.

"This historical significance not only for the present but also for the future... thank you very much for your work. I congratulate you on your work," Deng said in a faltering voice.

He called the document "a creative masterpiece."

Communist Party leader Jiang Zemin repeated some of Deng's remarks so delegates could hear. President Yang Shangkun, Premier Li Peng and National People's Congress Chairman Wan Li were also present.

In London, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd faced a barrage of hostile questions in parliament Friday and said the constitution was "not ideal" but a "reasonable... basis for the future."

British newspapers condemned the draft constitution, known as the basic law, as a betrayal of Hong Kong's 5.6 million people who have expressed their feelings by voting with their feet. About 1,000 people are leaving the colony each week.

The collective faith of free-wheeling, capitalist Hong Kong in its future Communist government was shattered last June when troops crushed pro-

democracy demonstrations in Beijing.

Hundreds of thousands of outraged Hong Kong people took to the streets in unprecedented protest.

Under the treaty agreed by Britain and China in 1984, Beijing guarantees to grant Hong Kong's capitalist system 50 more years of existence after 1997.

The basic law will be considered by the standing committee of China's National People's Congress next week and is expected to be passed by a full meeting of the legislature in March or early April.

Britain did not take part in the drafting committee talks, which ended with a series of votes Friday, but was involved in separate negotiations which both sides say will continue.

The basic law provides for 20 seats of the colony's 60-seat legislature to be elected by the people of Hong Kong by 1997.

## Bush signs China bill

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — U.S. President George Bush, in a new clash with Congress over China policy, says he'll ignore parts of an act that he considers an infringement on his right to conduct diplomacy.

Bush late Friday signed a \$9.8-billion State Department spending bill that reinforces sanctions on China and requires that Congress be notified when such secret missions as National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft's visit last June to Beijing are undertaken.

The president, at his oceanside home for a three-day weekend, signed the bill but voiced serious objections to those sections and several others which he said raised "constitutional difficulties."

The constitution gives the president exclusive power "to receive and appoint ambassadors and to conduct negotiations on behalf of the United States with foreign governments," Bush told Congress.

The overall legislation authorises \$4.8 billion for the State Department and related agencies for the fiscal year that began last

Oct. 1 and another \$5 billion for fiscal 1991.

Bush vetoed an earlier version of the legislation, not only because of the China sanctions, but due to an amendment that would have prohibited the administration from seeking third-country financing of insurgent groups, such as the Nicaraguan rebels.

Congress dropped that proposal from the current legislation. U.S. support of the Nicaraguan rebels was phased out under a bipartisan accord with Congress.

The bill writes into law sanctions identical to those Bush imposed on China after last June's bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing, including a ban on military sales to China and restrictions on trade and loans.

"Legislatively mandated sanctions represent an unwise constraint upon the president's ability to conduct foreign policy," Bush contended.

However, Bush signed the bill with the assertion he would not follow sections he considered unconstitutional.

He noted the legislation allows him to waive sanctions on ground

of "national interest" and suggested this clause put enough flexibility into the measure to allow it to escape a veto.

The sanctions remain in effect for now and Bush has no immediate plans to lift them, said Deputy Press Secretary Stephen Hart.

Bush said he would disobey the section of the legislation that would require the State Department to give Congress a full report on any politically sensitive secret diplomatic contacts.

The restriction was an outgrowth of the clandestine trip to Beijing last June, shortly after the Tiananmen Square crackdown, by Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger. That trip, coming soon after Bush banned high-level exchanges between U.S. and Chinese officials, was roundly criticised by the U.S. Congress.

"Such blanket reporting requirements could be read to compel the disclosure of sensitive ongoing negotiations," Bush said.

Bush's statement is the latest dispute with Congress over China policy.

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Reagan begins testimony on Iran-Contra affair

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ronald Reagan was in front of the camera again, with lawyers hanging on his every word as the former president produced a videotaped version of his recollection of the Iran-Contra affair. Reagan testified behind closed doors for about six hours Friday, answering questions about his role in the Iran-Contra affair, the failed arms-for-hostages deal during Reagan's second term as president. He returned for a second day of testimony Saturday. The Iran-Contra affair, the largest scandal of Reagan's eight years as president, involved the clandestine sale of arms to Iran and then the diversion of profits from those deals to resupply the Nicaraguan rebels. The former president was to face 154 questions, which were drawn from 183 submitted to the court by Defence Attorney Richard Beckler. The attorney was allowed follow-up questions if necessary but the judge prohibited him from raising additional questions on new subjects.

### Regional polls held in Philippines

MANILA (R) — Muslims and Christians in four southern Philippine provinces began voting Saturday to elect officials for a largely Muslim autonomous region as heavily armed soldiers stood guard. A bomb planted along a road in Jolo, the capital of Sulu province, exploded but nobody was hurt. It was the second bomb blast in the area in less than 24 hours, army sources said. A small homemade bomb exploded in the election commission's office in Jolo 940 kilometres south of Manila Friday night. The explosion caused slight damage and no casualties, they said. Election commission Leopoldo Africa said turnout was heavy as

voters lined up at polling precincts. More than 900,000 people are qualified to vote to elect a governor, a vice-governor and 21 members of a legislature. The autonomous region is made up of four provinces. They are Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Maguindanao and Lanao Del Sur. The provinces voted for autonomy in a referendum last November. Nine other provinces on Mindanao Island rejected it. The autonomous region will retain 40 per cent of taxes collected but Manila remains in charge of the region's defence and foreign policy.

### Floods, storms leave 17 Europeans dead

PARIS (AP) — The interior ministry reported Friday that bad weather causing floods and avalanches in different parts of France this week left at least 14 people dead and two missing. Avalanches in the Alps and flooding in the central, northeast and western regions of France affected hundreds of thousands of people since the weather took a turn for the worse Wednesday. The avalanches of snow coupled with mudslides cut mountain roads and stranded thousands of vacationers at ski resorts at Val d'Isere, Tignes, Bourg-Saint-Maurice and Chambéry. In West Germany at least three people drowned in two days of flooding in southern West Germany as officials reported Friday that the situation had improved in most affected areas. The floods, which stopped barge and ship traffic on the Rhine and Neckar rivers in Baden-Wuerttemberg state, were brought on by heavy storms with torrential rains and snow water from melting snow and rain poured down from steep hills in the Black Forest region and flooded scores of basements, streets and homes in dozens of towns located in a wide area about 100 kilometres south of Stuttgart.

## THE Sunday Crossword

Edited by Herb Etkin

### OWNERSHIP

By Benrice Gordon

#### ACROSS

- 1 Recreation area
- 5 Indiers
- 9 Work by Diego
- 14 Kristofferson
- 18 Hoisting
- 21 Shipeller
- 23 Shards of blue
- 25 Sticks
- 26 The Duke's
- 28 Weight concern?
- 29 George C. has a
- 30 Cuddly pairs
- 32 Gato up
- 33 Year's notion
- 35 Great warmth

#### DOWN

- 1 Chess piece
- 3 Whims
- 4 Can cash
- 6 Clemenceau
- 7 Gr. letters
- 8 — Lanka
- 9 Good-luck animals
- 10 Corrupting element
- 11 Rhymer: Sp.
- 12 Pagan
- 13 Give permission
- 14 Threat of Japan
- 15 Small stream
- 16 Hero
- 17 Coterie

#### Diagramless

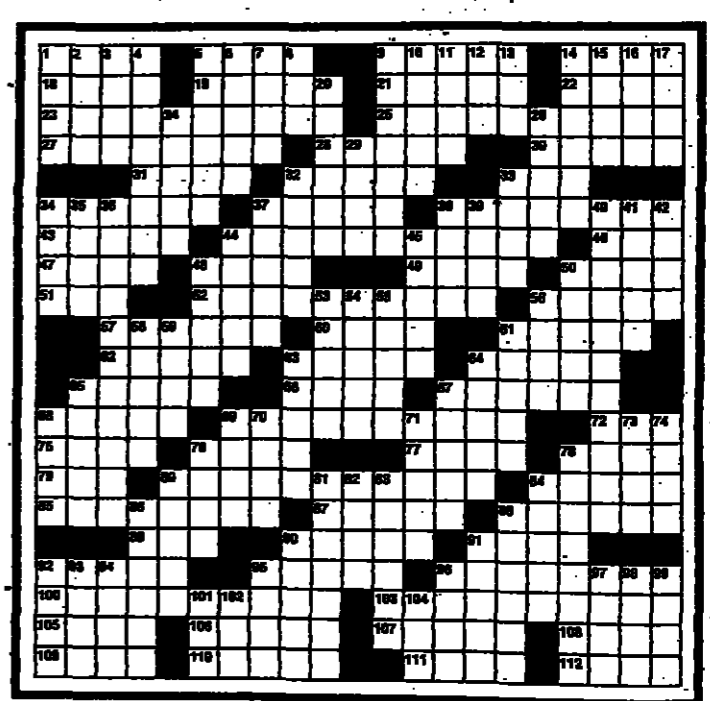
19 X 19, By Martin J. DeWitt

#### ACROSS

- 1 Ship's records
- 5 Irish poet's man
- 11 Mimic
- 14 Arduous
- 15 Motto for winners
- 16 Reverte
- 22 Stain
- 23 Proprietor
- 24 "Stranger — fiction" (Byron)
- 25 Scapegoat
- 26 Sundry's word
- 27 Frank
- 28 Sound unit
- 31 Copulant
- 34 Unit of energy
- 35 Vallet's land
- 36 Scientist's home
- 38 Building addition
- 39 Coral reef
- 16 Lasso
- 17 Scoop
- 18 Robust
- 21 Informal about
- 27 Table scrap
- 28 Object in a shell
- 29 Seat at bridge
- 30 Kind of bullet
- 31 Name of singing brothers

#### DOWN

- 1 Against
- 2 First notes of scale
- 3 Blvd.
- 4 Win
- 5 Debar
- 6 Carry out
- 7 Denial
- 8 Comprehend
- 11 Egyptian dem
- 12 Gasp
- 13 Inspects
- 32 Win
- 33 Claim
- 34 Affirmative votes
- 41 "Le Coq" —
- 42 Garbo e.g.
- 43 Sundry's word
- 44 Bet
- 45 Takes on
- 46 Bridal party
- 47 "Where have you —"
- 51 Pocket bread
- 52 Dismay
- 56 Chi-chi
- 58 Louvers
- 59 Tarnish
- 60 Put away
- 61 Win
- 62 Fania today
- 63 "Pier Gyr"
- 64 Character
- 67 Bling
- 68 Istanbul
- 69 Lame
- 70 " — jolly good fellow"
- 62 Request
- 63 Kind of language
- 64 Causess
- 65 Nutmeg
- 66 Baseball team
- 67 Related
- 68 Related
- 69 Related
- 70 " — jolly good fellow"



### Last Week's Cryptograms

1. It would be nice if we could use plastic to pay the bills we run up by using plastic for charging the things we buy.
2. It takes a proper high school class reunion for us to know who's falling apart.
3. Nice courteous lady suggested to gentleman that he please go, saying to him politely, "Hit the road, foal!"
4. Any smart dog will likely stay far away from dingy flea markets.

### CRYPTOGRAMS

1. XZI BANN-WZBAGORNX-CIEVNX MGVY YZ  
HAGV O JOK BMZ LOK NAGV RVXZKY MAC  
JYOKC O NZF ZW LEVYAF. —By Gordon Miller
2. FWBO KJHO CHDJAW EHLBT BDTWV CLLS  
JANTV LT CHDJ CLT HNEW CHNES  
LFWKWNK. —By Earl Ireland
3. GINWLNZGZ USTWG SLICELIUWUWZ SACKZ  
ANY NEWS OW ICLGNEWHG ZC AW  
WSHZOGOSTNLY. —By Ed Haddock
4. WI SD OM: AUBE U BLUE OW SDMMBY OE  
UTOFT OF MAD YDEYOTDUMYX. —By Norton Edwards

